Strathaird Primary School News 15/10/2025 **Edition 15**



Strathaird



Primary School







Responsibility

Compassion

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Principal Page

Literacy at Strathaird Primary School

Strengthening early literacy through phonics

Over the past year, there has been significant discussion from both the government and the media regarding the importance of phonics in early literacy development. Long before these recent mandates, Strathaird Primary School had already recognised the value of phonics, having implemented a systematic synthetic phonics program with our Prep and Year 1 students to support their learning.

To further strengthen this foundation, and to meet the updated government guidelines, we have continued to refine our approach. This year has included changes to our Literacy Program to ensure all Prep to Year 2 students have a daily dedicated phonics session, as well as making significant investments in decodable texts, supporting resources, and ongoing teacher professional development.

Our teachers are committed to delivering instruction that is clear, direct, and purposeful. Through our phonics approach new sounds and spellings are taught. Skills are introduced in small, manageable steps and presented in a highly structured sequence, ensuring that each component builds upon the last, allowing students to make meaningful connections in their learning. Every morning, students engage in revising learnt skills, explicitly learning news sounds, decoding (reading) and encoding (spelling), ensuring each student has ongoing practice and immediate feedback from their teachers. They also have the daily opportunity through phonics to continue to develop their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. This consistency across all junior classrooms reinforces understanding and builds student confidence, allowing students to feel instant success.

As part of this commitment, our Prep to Year 2 students also bring home weekly take-home books. These decodable readers are carefully aligned with the phonics skills being taught in class, helping to consolidate learning and develop independent reading skills.

We are so proud of our teachers and students for taking on our changes and showing wonderful progress this year. We really appreciate the continued support of parents at home as we work to build a strong and lasting foundation in literacy for every student at Strathaird Primary School.

A big thank you to Literacy Leader, Annabelle Ericksen, and all the Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers for the way they have embraced the changes and worked so hard every day to improve our students learning.

The importance of also maintaining a broad explicit approach to reading Research and experience shows that children learn best when teachers adopt an explicit approach to reading, one that systematically teaches the six essential components of literacy: Oral Language, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. In light of this research, in addition to phonics, we also continue to implement a strong wider reading program at all levels where students are exposed to reading a range of books, other than decodable texts, to broaden their understandings of our world, to build their vocabulary, to develop deep language and comprehension skills and very importantly, to cultivate a lifelong love of reading. This reading occurs using approaches such as shared and modelled reading, guided reading and independent reading experiences. We know that decodable books are excellent and necessary for practicing phonics, but also reading and understanding content rich, diverse literature is crucial for overall literacy and personal development of our students.



TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR 2026 PREPS

Our Transition Program has started today from 9.30—10.30 a.m.

It was fantastic to welcome our 2026 Preps to our classrooms and it was wonderful to see many new families to Strathaird.

The program continues each Wednesday at 9.30 on 22 October, 29th November and 5th December. All students attend all sessions. There are parents sessions as well. Details are available at the Office if you don't already have them.

Statewide Orientation Day is Tuesday 9th December and all 2026 Preps will attend school on that morning, commencing at 9.15 a.m.

Any current families who have children starting Prep next year, can you please ensure you have completed the enrolment process at the Office and that your child attends the Transition program.

Students attending other PRIMARY schools in 2026

At the start of each year, sadly, some of our current students, for various reasons, move house or move to different schools. Please let us know if your family may/will be leaving our school for 2026. This is very useful information that assists us in planning for the coming year. If you think you may be in this situation, please let us know asap. Remember, if you change your mind and stay, that's no problem, there is always the option to stay.

CLASSES FOR 2026

Each year in Term 4, the teachers organise students into their future class groupings for the next school year. Over the years, we have had requests from parents that their child not be placed with specific people.

Given strong and valid reasons, we can sometimes take these requests into consideration, <u>not always</u>. Information that we receive this year will be considered, we cannot guarantee that requests made in previous years can be applied.

Teachers will start to organise grades from November.

Students will not know their class teacher or peers until the final week of school.

Once grades have been set they are not to be changed.

All requests from parents must be emailed to the Principal before Friday 31st of October.

Term 4 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0	13t	n 14th 2nd Hand Uniform Stall	15th Prep Transition Day	16th Prep Myuna Farm Excursion	17th JNR Assembly Gr 6 Photos
CTOBER	20t	n 21st	22nd Prep Transition Day Regional Athletics	23rd Bookclub Due today	24th SNR Assembly \$ Due Gr 2 Bike Safety \$ Due Gr 5 Puffing Billy Excursion
iii R	27t	School Council 6.30pm	29th Prep Transition Day	30th	31st JNR Assembly Gr 2 Bike safety excursion 2C & 2D
Z	31	d 4th Melbourne Cup Public Holiday - No School	5th Prep Transition Day	6th Gr 5 Puffing Billy Excursion	7th SNR Assembly Gr 2 Bike safety excursion 2A & 2B
OVEMBER	10t	n 11th	12th	13th	14th JNR Assembly
ER	17t	n 18th	19th	20th	21st SNR Assembly

100% Attendance Award Award

Term 3

Hunter	00A
Selen	00A
Aayan	00B
Farhad	00B
Lida	00C
Fahad	00C
Keaton	00C
Sarah	00D
Ava	00D
Brock	00D
Raven	00E
Nihaal	00E
Rabaab	00E
Nora	00F
Daniyal	00F
Ava	00F
Josh	00F
Sana	00F
Aurora	1A
Saleena	1A
Atif	1A
Flynn	1A
Armin	1A
Ramin	1A
Shaveen	1A
Rayol	1A

Ellexia	1B
Virat	1B
Arman	1B
Hoyaar	1B
Max	1B
Sophia	1C
Max	1C
Emma	1C
Mia	1C
Levi	1D
Byron	1D
Harfateh	1D
Sarena	1D
Josie	1D
Poung Wah	1D
Eliya	1D
Richie	1E
Liam	1E
Elias	1E
Paige	1E
Amber	1E
Willow	1E
Zeeshan	1E
Iraj	1E
Naweed	2A
Summer	2A
Shayan	2A

Nate	2A	Mahnaz	3C
Omid	2A	Adeli	30
Brooklyn	2A	Melika	3C
Fernando	2A	Subhan	30
Packo	2A	Rozbeh	3C
Kainat	2B	Ali	30
Jayda-Tay	2B	Selena	3D
Yahya	2B	Andy	3D
Ava	2B	Johanna	3D
Dariosh	2B	Shahd	3D
Rylee	2B	Fariha	3D
Naveed	2C	Emerald	3E
Agam	2C	Liam	3E
Ebrahim	2C	Atrina	3E
Samera	2C	Yunus	3E
Tina	2C	Huma	3F
Emi	2C	Omid	3F
Elias	2D	Willow	3F
Sachi	2D	Lina	3F
William	ЗА	Liam	3F
Ramin	3A	Seth	4A
Ava	3A	Faraz	4A
Oliver	3A	Tobias	4A
Zoe	3B	Kawsar	4B
Raahim	3B	Diva	4B
Oliver	3B	Roy	4B
Rohan	3C	Hosam	4B



100% Attendance Award **

Term 3

Claire	4B	Taha	5B
Riley	4C	Phoebe	5B
Abolfazl	4C	Lina	5C
Arsalan Ali	4C	Aiman	5C
Shahzad	4D	Jay	5C
Haniya	4D	Maryam	5C
Nova	4D	Julie	5C
Arman	4D	Isabella	5C
Aaliyah	4D	Dominic	5C
Amer	4D	Georgia	5C
Kayleigh	4D	Jerry	5C
Shikeb	4D	Samira	5D
Simrat	4E	Zoey	5D
Mahan	4E	Sammi	5D
lmie	5A	Tania	5D
Noreen	5A	Reza	5D
Haider	5A	Rana	5D
Sibtain	5A	Charlene	5D
Ramin	5A	Wrigh	6A
Ali Sina	5A	Farhanaz	6A
Christopher	5A	Mia	6A
Summer	5A	Zohair	6A
Aliyah	5B	Murtaza	6A
Mursal	5B	Samir	6B
Jason	5B	Mahdi	6B
Azeta	5B	Ali	6B
Hanasa	5B	Mujtaba	6C

Ebony	6C
Phenix	6C
Heather	6C
Abbas	6C
Maria	6C
Yutong	6C
Ray	6D
Sahar	6D
Wyatt	6D
Asad	6D
Matilda	6D
Ryan	6D
Declan	6D



Wellbeing Page

Is FAFO the End of Gentle Parenting or Just the Start of Bigger Problems?



O Comments

If you've spent time on TikTok or read the *Wall Street Journal* lately, you might have come across a new parenting buzzword: **FAFO parenting**. It stands for "Fuss Around and Find Out" (a cleaner version of the original phrase, where the first "F" is a somewhat stronger word).

The idea is simple: for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Don't step in when your child makes a mistake — let life teach them. Forget their raincoat? Let them get drenched. Refuse to eat dinner? Let them go hungry until breakfast. Spray Mum with a water gun after being told not to? Into the pool you go.

Supporters claim this "tough love" approach prepares kids for the real world, sets firm boundaries, and builds resilience. But as tempting as it sounds (especially when we're tired of endless negotiating), there's a darker side parents should understand.

Why FAFO Parenting Backfires

- 1. It damages the relationship. When kids know you'll let them suffer to "teach a lesson," they stop seeing you as a safe place to turn. They may go elsewhere for comfort sometimes to people you wouldn't choose.
- 2. It confuses punishment with learning. Being left hungry doesn't teach meal planning. Walking home in a thunderstorm doesn't build weather awareness. Kids learn that parents let bad things happen and they feel unworthy of their parents' help. What they don't learn is how to solve problems.
- It creates compliance, not character. Children may obey out of fear, but that doesn't build integrity, empathy, or good judgment. True resilience comes from feeling supported, not punished.

A Better Way Forward

Discipline isn't about dishing out pain to prove a point. It's about problem-solving together.

That statement needs to be on repeat. Too many of us feel like it's our job to make our kids pay a price when they are challenging. That's the opposite of what good discipline looks like. The best discipline recognises that children aren't *the* problem. They're having a problem. And if we can support them in solving that problem, the challenging behaviour goes away.

So, if FAFO isn't the answer, what is?

Wellbeing Page

Here are three approaches that truly help kids learn and grow:

1. Connection First

Children behave best when they feel seen, heard, and valued. Before stepping in with correction, start with connection. That might mean kneeling to their level, making eye contact, and saying, "I can see you're really frustrated right now." Or, "It's a pretty tricky situation huh?" When kids know you're on their side, their defences come down. They feel safe enough to listen and safe enough to learn.

Connection doesn't excuse the behaviour — it creates the conditions where change becomes possible. Think of it like building a bridge: without connection, there's no path across. With it, you can walk your child to better choices.

2. Collaborate on Solutions

Rather than letting "life" teach hard lessons, we can teach problem-solving. Instead of, "You didn't bring your raincoat, now you're soaked — bet you won't forget next time," try, "Looks like you're wet and cold. What can we do differently tomorrow so this doesn't happen again?"

These small conversations build responsibility without shame. Children learn that mistakes aren't fatal; they're stepping stones. And they learn that you're willing to help them think through better strategies — which is exactly the skill they'll need when you're not around to rescue them.

3. Coach, Don't Control

Our role isn't to coerce compliance but to coach competence. Coaching means guiding with patience, encouragement, and high expectations. It's sitting beside your child at the homework table and asking, "What's your plan to get started?" rather than standing over them with threats.

Force creates resistance. Coaching opens up the possibility of growth. It allows kids to build the inner compass they'll need long after childhood.

This isn't about bubble-wrapping our children. We aren't trying to protect them from hard things. Life will bring plenty of natural challenges. But home should be their safe base — the place where they know someone always has their back.

Trends like FAFO parenting may grab attention online, but they miss the heart of what our children need most: connection before correction. When kids know they're loved, supported, and guided through challenges, they don't just become obedient — they become resilient, kind, and capable human beings.

Student Attendance

Strathaird







9:01









Too Late



Thank you for arriving at school on time!

با تشکر از شما برای ورود به مدرسه در زمان!	شكرا لك على وصولك إلى المدرسة في الوقت المحدد!
समय पर स्कूल पहुंचने के लिए धन्यवादें!	時間通りに学校に到着して いただきありがとうござい ます!
感謝您準時到達學校!	از اینکه به موقع به مدرسه رسیدید متشکریم!

Arriving late to school **interrupts the learning** and teaching for everyone.

دیر رسیدن به مدرسه، یادگیری و	يؤدي الوصول متأخرا إلى المدرسة
تدریس را برای همه قطع می کند.	إلى مقاطعة التعلم والتعليم للجميع.
स्कूल देर से पहुंचने से सभी	学校に遅れて到着すると、
के लिए सीखने और पढ़ाने में	全員の学習と教育が中断さ
बाधा आती है।	れます。
返學遲到會打斷每個人嘅學	دیر رسیدن به مدرسه یادگیری و
習同教學。	آموزش را برای همه مختل می کند.

Be at School Every Day. All Day. All the way!

Being On time to school really does matter		
If your child is late everyday	Learning time lost approximately	
5 Minutes	3 Days from school	
10 minutes	5 Days from school	
15 Minutes	8 Days from school	

2025 Chess Tournament

Term 3 brought excitement for all of Strathaird's chess enthusiasts with our annual Chess Tournament! This year, 64 of our most passionate young players competed, showcasing their skills and strategic thinking over several weeks.

As the tournament progressed, the competition grew fiercer, with intense matches narrowing the field down to the final players in the last weeks of Term 3. The semi-finals were especially thrilling, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats as the finalists were decided.

In the grand final, Patrick from 6D faced off against his best friend James from 6A. Patrick triumphed, improving on his 2nd place finish last year to become the 2025 Chess Champion!

Congratulations to Patrick and all the students who participated this year. We look forward to seeing everyone back next year for another exciting tournament.

For those eager to keep their chess skills sharp, our Thursday recess chess club is open to all students 3- 6 this term—come along and join the fun!





Athletics Success

DIVISIONAL ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Last term 50 of our students represented Strathaird Primary School at the District Athletics Interschool competition. We competed against 7 other schools at Casey Fields Athletics Track. We had many students from SPS achieve fantastic results, achieving many 1st, 2nd and 3rd ribbons across a variety of events. Those that didn't get a ribbon competed to the best of their ability showing pride and dedication towards achieving their best. Overall we had 19 students place 1st and 2nd which advanced them to the next Divisional level. As a school we were also very successful placing 2ND overall. The points are calculated on the placings of all our students. It has been a few years since we have achieved such a high placing so we were very proud to receive the second pennant flag

for our gym wall.





















Athletics Success cont.....

DIVISIONAL ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Last Wednesday 19 students attended the Casey Fields Athletics track and competed at the Divisional level in their Athletics event. The competition gets stronger each level with this competition being for the children who placed 1st or second across 8 districts. Once again our students competed with pride and dedication to achieve their best. We had 5 children advance to the Regional finals which are held next Wednesday at Casey Fields and we wish these children the best of luck.





Ali won his shot put in the Under 12 age group.

Ashlea, A'Vah-Leigh, Peyton and Charlene competed in the Under 11 4* 100m relay and placed 2nd.

We look forward to hearing and celebrating their achievements in our next newsletter and at our senior assembly in a few weeks after they have competed.

2026 Prep Enrolment

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD STARTING PREP AT STRATHAIRD PRIMARY IN 2026

We are offering our 2026 Prep places in Week 1 next term (From 25th July)

if you have not enrolled and would like be enrol at our School, Please contact the office asap.

Would you like a tour?

Do you have any questions?

Do you have any concerns?

Please contact Sharon McMahon at the office on 9705 3800 or email enrolments@strathairdps.vic.gov.au

Grade 3

This term in Inquiry, Grade 3 students are exploring the question:

"What can we do to keep our bodies healthy?"

They are investigating...

- Different strategies and choices that support both their own health and the wellbeing of others.
 - Physical activity and movement play a vital role in maintaining a healthy body throughout our lives.
- Healthy eating habits, including selecting and preparing nutritious foods, help to sustain our bodies.
- Critical literacy skills enable students to better understand and evaluate health messages and promotions they encounter.









To begin their learning journey, students 'tuned in' by exploring the concept of movement and how it relates to health. They participated in various outdoor games and activities that encouraged physical movement and positive peer interaction.







SUSTAINABILITY NEWS











ResourceSmart Schools

Strathaird Primary is a rubbish free school and therefore we encourage rubbish free lunches. Packing a rubbish free lunch does take a bit more time, but they are healthier for the students and the environment. They are cheaper too!



Rubbish Free Lunch Ideas

- Fruit there is a wide variety in season now
- Vegetables- Cucumber, carrot, tomato, snow peas
- Dried fruit apricots, sultanas, mango, pear
- Sweet potato or potato homemade chips
- Burger, fish, chicken, vege
- Sandwiches with no wrapper
- Homemade food -cupcakes, muffins, biscuits, slices, granola bars
- Boiled eggs
- Cheese cubes

- Bento boxes with lots of compartments
- Options for chips and packaged food –buy a big sized packet or box and bring a few each day.
- Alternative to cling wrap (if really needed) – use foil (recycle), use containers, kitchen paper wrap, beeswax wrap
- Alternative to yogurt tubes buy a big tub of yogurt and put in a reusable container. Spoon – metal or bamboo
- Leftovers from dinner in a therm flask





Litter continues to be a huge issue for our wildlife. Click on the link below to read about how loopy litter is affecting Melbourne's platypus and what you can do to help.

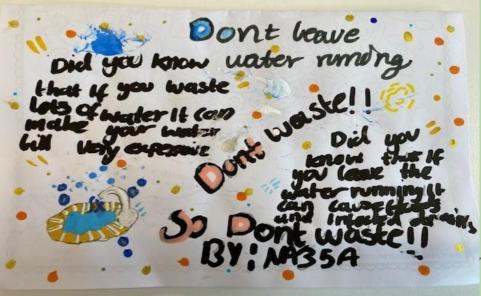
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1LVWZ9Uhwh/?mibextid=wwXlfr

Bottle Cap recycling

Thanks to those who continue to drop of bottle caps to the office or Cubby for recycling. Just a reminder that bottle caps need to be clean and dry.



A message from the Green Team to help you SAVE WATER at home, school and when out and about.



Sentral for Parents App

The **Sentral for Parents** app allows families to:

- view academic reports
- explain past and upcoming student absences
- view calendar events
- book parent/teacher interviews
- receive sick bay notifications
- view school newsletters

as well as receive real-time notifications and messages from the school



Instructions for accessing the Sentral for Parent App

- 1. **Download** the 'Sentral for Parents' app. Depending on your device, visit either the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store.
- 2. Search for Strathaird Primary School. Tap Next.
- 3. **Sign in** using your Sentral username (your registered email address) and password (that you created when Registering). Tap Log In.
- 4. You are now ready to start using the app.

If you have never registered on Sentral:

- 1.Click register here to register a new account. It will ask you to create a user name and password. Enter your email address as your username and create your own password. You will receive a verification email which MUST be verified in order to continue.
- 2. Once verified, log back into the app and use the access key provided by the school to link to your child's details. *The access key will be created for you once your child is attending.*

For a quick overview on how to access the Parent Portal, please watch this short video.

https://vimeo.com/sentraleducation/review/431752138/968dcb15a8

If you have questions about using the app, or need some extra help then please browse the list of FAQs at

<u>https://info.sentral.com.au/new-app-getting-started</u> or contact us for assistance.



Important Parent Resources



Attendance

Please ensure your children are at school on time. Students should be at their class by 8.50am ready to begin class by 9am.

If your child is absent, please notify the school through the Parent Portal on Sentral or call the admin on 9705 3800.





1

Set up your device to protect your information.

2

Explore safely & tell an adult if you see anything online that makes you feel yuck.

3

Limit who can contact you when you're playing games.

4

Stop all contact with anyone online who asks you to do anything you don't want to do. Report and block them.

5

Ask for help if anything online is bothering you.



How to report cyberbullying material



If the content is not removed within 48 hours apply steps 3 and 4 $\,$



If you are in immediate danger, call 000 (triple zero)
If you need to talk to someone, visit kidshelpline.com.au or call them on
1800.55 1800. 24 hours a day 7 days a week



esafety.gov.au/kids



Make good choices









Why do you like it?

Use devices near a grown-up

Time's up







Make good choices

Help children to think about the content they watch and how to manage their time on screens.

Message 1: Why do you like it?

Choosing to say kind things when connecting online is a life-long skill that can help prevent cyberbullying later on. The screen image can be a stimulus to discuss the types of things you should do when video calling,

Message 2: Use devices near a grown-up

Children need to be aware that digital technologies should be used with a grown-up nearby and in a shared space. Children should get used to the idea, from an early age, that devices should not be used in bedrooms.

Message 3: Time's up.

It is important to discuss with children how they will know when it's time to turn devices off and how they will transition to another activity.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- · What do you like to play on devices? What makes you like it?
- Where are these people using devices? Where are you allowed to use them?
- · Have you ever been told you have been playing on a device for too long? How do you feel when that happens? What do you usually do?

Be kind









Say kind things

Take turns

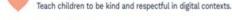
Ask before you take a photo

eSafety

Barly Years







Message 1: Say kind things Choosing to say kind things when connecting online is a life-long skill that can help prevent cyberbullying later on. The screen image can be a stimulus to discuss the types of things you should do when video calling,

like saving hello with a smile.

Taking turns is a good way of managing time on screens and building self-regulation skills. The child in the background of this picture is sad because they have been left out of the game.

Message 3: Ask before you take a photo.

The little boy in is taking a photo of himself with his family. The screen image depicts another time when he is asking his family if they would like to be in the photo.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Have you ever called your family or friends on a computer or tablet like the people in the first photo? What do you think they are saying? How do you know?
- · Why do you think the boy in the middle photo looks sad? What could they do to stop him feeling sad?
- . Do you always ask someone if it is OK to take their photo before you take it? Why?

Be safe









Play with the games and

Only talk with people you know

Some things should be kept private









Help children understand personal information and how it can be protected.

Message 1: Play with the games and apps that are yours.

Devices should be set up so children know which content is for them and that other games, programs or apps may not be suitable for them. The screen image shows the folder where the little girl can find the games and apps just for her use.

Message 2: Only talk with people you know.

This picture reminds children that they should only video call when a grown-up is helping them, and only speak to people they know.

Message 3 - Some things should be kept private.

In this picture the boys are creating an avatar with their Grandad. Avatars can be a practical way of showing children how they can keep their real name and identity private by creating a character to represent themselves in games

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- . Do you play on your Mum or Dad's phone, tablet or computer? Do you have a special place for your games and apps? How do you know what is yours?
- . Do you talk on the computer to your friends and family? Who helps you?
- . Why do you think the boy in the last picture looks confused? If you were going to create an avatar for yourself what would it look like? Why?

Ask for help





Check before you tap

You won't get in trouble



Tell a grown-up







Teach children to ask a trusted grown-up for help with any issue using digital technologies.

Message 1: Tell a grown-up.
It is really important for children to know that if something makes them feel worried, scared or sad when they are using a device they should tell a grown-up.

Message 2: Check before you tap.

Before children use a device, they should ask a grown-up. The picture shows the little boy asking if he can play a new video he has not seen before.

Message 3: You won't get in trouble

ldren are playing with digital technology often things happen that they didn't expect. It can be the same for grown-ups tool Children need to know that if something unexpected happens, they should tell a grown-up. They should be assured that the grown-up will know it was important for the child to share the problem even if it happened because they made a mistake.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Have you ever seen something that made you feel worried, scared or sad when you were playing on a tablet? Who would you tell? What do you think they would say?
- · Who do you ask before you play, watch or tap on something new on a device?

Our Vision Statement and Mission

VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION

To empower students to strive for personal achievement, embrace challenges and develop the skills and values that enable them to become lifelong learners and engaged responsible citizens in an ever changing global society.





Strathaird



Primary School



Respect

We value people's worth and qualities and treat them in a polite and friendly manner.



Compassion

We care about others, we treat them with kindness and we help people when they are in need.