

Strathaird Primary School News

29/10/2025

Edition 16



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



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9705 3800

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www.strathairdps.vic.edu.au 1'

Principal Page

REMINDER: Monday 3 November is a normal school day, so students should come to school next Monday.

Tuesday 4 November is Melbourne Cup Day, a public holiday, students should not come to school on this day.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – FROM SENTRAL TO COMPASS

We have made the decision to change our School Management System from Sentral to Compass, commencing in 2026. This decision was made for a variety of reasons but particularly because 98% of Victorian Schools use Compass and this will make it easier for parents when their children transition to Secondary Schools and when staff move to other schools. Towards the end of term parents will be given information on how to access and use Compass. Similar to Sentral, Compass will be used by parents for a variety of functions including to record absences, receive messages from the school, view the school calendar, consent and pay for incursions or excursions, view academic reports and book Parent Teacher Interviews.



TRANSITION PROGRAM 2026 PREPS

It has been fantastic to welcome our 2026 Preps to our classrooms for the Transition program.

Today has been day 3, with one more Transition Day next Wednesday.

Many thanks to the parents who have attended the Parent sessions in the gym.

Statewide Orientation Day is Tuesday 9th December and all 2026 Preps will attend school on that morning.

CRAZY HAIR AND SOCK DAY

This Friday, 31 October, is Crazy Hair and Sock Day. Students need to wear **normal school uniform** but may style their hair or wear different socks. Although this event is being held on 31 October, we are not celebrating Halloween, so please, no Halloween outfits.

Students who wear crazy hair or socks, are asked to please bring a gold coin donation which will go to Cystic Fibrosis Australia.



TERM 4 EVENTS

It is hard to believe we only have just over seven weeks of school left.

In addition to much class work and learning planned for the term, we have a lot of fun events occurring in November and December.

Key Events this term include:

- *Prep Transition for 2026 Preps – Wednesdays Weeks 2-5.*
- *Crazy Hair and Sock Day – 31 October.*
- *Year 2 Bike Skills Excursion – 31 October and 7 November.*
- *Year 5 Puffing Billy Excursion – Thursday 6 November.*
- *House Captain Elections – Week 6*
- *School Captain Elections – Week 7*
- *Salvation Army Food and Toy drive begins Week 8.*
- *Year 6 Graduation Ceremony@Bunjil Place – Wednesday 3 December.*
- *Year 1 Moonlit Sanctuary Excursion – Thursday 4 December.*
- *Battle of the Bands – Friday 5 December*
- *Prep and Year 7 2026 Statewide Orientation Day – Tuesday 9 December.*
- *Year 6 Swimming – Week 10.*
- *Whole School Final Assembly – Monday 15 December.*
- *Christmas Concert – Monday night 15 December.*
- *Year 6 Celebration Day – Tuesday 16 December.*
- *Prep – Year 5 Class Parties – Wednesday 17 December.*
- *Year 6 – Graduation Lunch – Wednesday 17 December.*
- *Meet your 2026 Class – Wednesday 17 December.*
- *Last day of school for students – Wednesday 17 December. 3.15 p.m. dismissal.*

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.

Term 4 2025

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

OCT

NOVEMBER

DEC

27th	28th School Council 6.30pm	29th Prep Transition Day	30th	31st JNR Assembly Gr 2 Bike safety excursion 2C & 2D Crazy Hair and Sock Day - Gold Coin Donation
3rd	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
10th	11th	12th	13th	14th JNR Assembly
17th	18th	19th	20th	21st SNR Assembly
24th	25th School Council 6.30pm	26th	27th \$ Due Gr 1 Moonlit Sanctuary	28th JNR Assembly
1st December	2nd	3rd Gr 6 Graduation @ Bunjil	4th Gr 1 Moonlit Excursion	5th SNR Assembly Battle of the Bands

Student of the Week



Week 1

Prep A	Smarpit	For being a kind and helpful in the classroom
Prep B	Lara	For an amazing effort during writing! Keep up the great work :)
Prep C	Fahad	For your amazing effort during guided reading!
Prep D	Ali	For always trying his best to write CVC words during writing. Well done!
Prep E	Katelyn	For maintaining a positive attitude toward all her learning. Keep up the great work!
Prep F	Josh	For his outstanding effort and growth in Math!
1A	Ramin	For contributing to discussions during Guided Reading sessions. Well done!
1B	Max	For his fantastic work in solving worded number problems in maths! Keep up the great work!
1C	Mason	For a positive attitude and determination to complete his work to the best of his ability.
1E	Amber	For always offering to help her classmates and teacher.
2A	Parker	For working hard on developing your ideas in Writing
2B	Leon	for sharing his ideas.
2C	Ariana	For doing an amazing job explaining your addition strategies.
2D	Sabella	For trying new strategies when adding and subtracting
3A	Zorah	For her friendly, positive attitude and for always doing her best.
3B	Galaxy	For working cooperatively in group activities!
3C	Bently	For his Growth Mindset and resilience!
3D	Elektra	For her wonderful contributions during class discussions!
3E	Hadis	For working hard on her Renaming skills in Maths!
3F	Nihith	For his amazing effort in making numbers in Maths.
4B	Yovaan	For engaging well in our new Inquiry topic!
4D	Austin	For his excellent contributions in guided reading.
4E	Mahan	For using 'show don't tell' when describing in writing.
5A	Noreen	For doing a wonderful job with your reading responses and adding lots of evidence to support your reasons. Well done!
5B	Hanasa	For putting in an amazing effort in her revising and editing of her Warm Write. Keep up the great work!
5C	Maryam	For showing a much more positive attitude to her learning.
5D	Valentina	For focusing well during writing and writing a high quality exposition piece
6A	Mia	For the positive approach that you have to all aspects of classroom life.
6B	Savannah	For showing an amazing effort with all reading activities.
6C	Sabehlla	For sharing her thinking during Guided Reading.
6D	Hassnain	For producing some great work in Maths. Well done!



Student of the Week



Week 2

Prep A	Mehran	For his amazing effort during writing sessions! Well done
Prep B	Sima	For excellent reading this week. Well done :)
Prep C	Aliya	For working hard to decode words in reading. Well done!
Prep D	Sara	For adding detail to her writing! Well done Sara :)
Prep E	Alice	For working so hard during writing, I am so proud of your hard work and concentration.
Prep F	Sianna	For her friendly and positive attitude in the classroom.
1A	Flynn	For his wonderful narrative on the lion at school. Well done!
1B	Naweed	For working so hard during phonics! I am so proud of your efforts!
1C	Zoha	For starting the term with enthusiasm and showing great effort in all tasks.
1E	Iraj	For her enthusiastic approach to all learning tasks.
2A	Mahdi	For his positive attitude towards learning
2B	Mehreen	for her positive approach to learning
2C	Mia	For your excellent instructions when solving equations in maths.
2D	Ali	For great arguments in our debate
3A	Chace	For trying his best and making wonderful progress.
3B	Zoe	For your excellent contributions during class discussions!
3C	Melika	For her dedication to her work!
3D	Selena	For a well structured and entertaining persuasive text.
3E	Mustafa	For working cooperatively in group settings
3F	Natalie	For her great arguments in her persuasive writing piece.
4A	Nui	For taking pride in the presentation and quality of his work
4B	Yahya	For engaging well in social/emotional learning this week!
4C	Lincoln	For consistently being engaged in class discussion and learning. Great commitment!
4D	Amer	For always trying his best with everytask that he undertakes!
4E	Mahi Kaur	For instantly recalling all of the 10 by 10 multiplication facts.
5A	Alivia	For working so hard on your vertical multiplication this week. Keep up the super effort!
5C	Ruby	For having a much better attitude in learning a new skill in Maths. Well done Ruby!
5D	Zaid	For showing the school values across all curriculum areas and being respectful
6A	Elise	For approaching tricky BODMAS problems with determination and a smile, even when you were challenged
6B	Elyas	For an improved effort with writing. Keep up the positive attitude.
6C	Andrea	For persevering with tricky maths concepts.
6D	Sahar	For working hard to improve in all areas.





School Values Awards



Congratulations to the following Students

Week 1

Prep A	Ayana
Prep B	Farhad
Prep C	Zainab
Prep E	Reif
Prep F	Nargis
1A	Tate
1B	Aliza
1C	Sophia
2A	Motaser
2B	Jayda-Tay
2C	Naveed
2D	Logan
3A	Riyansi
3B	Baneen
3C	Tahlia
3D	Liam
3E	Beau
3F	Michael
4B	Yevin
4D	Xavier
4E	Daniel
5A	Alivia
5B	Taha
5C	Georgia
5D	Zaid
5D	Zoey
6A	Mitchell
6B	Mariam
6C	Ashwanth
6D	Ali

Week 2

Prep A	Navid
Prep B	Sitarah
Prep C	Suleiman
Prep E	William
Prep F	Hannah
1A	Diana
1B	Basid
1C	Ali
2A	Charnell
2B	Shahar Naz
2C	William
2D	Kiara
3A	Arvin
3B	Faiva
3C	Natasha
3D	Zahra
3E	Yunus
3F	Andre
4A	Nemat
4B	Zahra
4C	Jaiwanth
4D	Ayaan
4E	Simrat
5A	Noreen
5B	Isla
5C	Isabella
5D	Avanthika
5D	Sammi
6A	Ella
6B	Kayden
6C	Sara
6D	Ray

Respect

Responsibility

Honesty

Compassion



Crazy HAIR DAY & Sock Day

Friday, 31st October

For this event children can come with their hair styled in a silly, wacky, or creative manner or wear crazy socks. We suggest colourful hair accessories, temporary hair dye, or other fun hair accessories!

Students should still wear their normal uniform.

Please Bring a Gold Coin Donation to Support
Cystic Fibrosis Australia

Wellbeing Page

Time Is Love: Why Being Present Matters More Than Ever



Dr Justin Coulson
October 1, 2025

0 Comments



In the whirlwind of school runs, work meetings, laundry piles, and life's endless to-do lists, it's easy for family time to fall to the bottom of our priorities. We're "there" with our children, but are we truly *with* them?

One powerful truth from our family's journey—and from years of research and real-world parenting—is this: **To our kids, love is spelled T-I-M-E.**

The Surprising Thing Our Kids Told Us

In our home, we've developed a simple but powerful tradition we call **PPIs—Personal Parenting Interviews**. It began with a parenting checklist that challenged us to see ourselves through our children's eyes. Questions like:

- *Do my parents listen to me with genuine interest?*
- *Do they spend time with me just because they want to?*
- *Do I feel like they care about what's important to me?*

Wanting honest answers, my wife, Kylie, nervously sat down with our kids and asked them directly what we were doing well as parents, what wasn't working, and how we could improve. It was raw and real. Sometimes confronting. But it brought deep connection—and clarity.

Their answers? What mattered most wasn't perfection. It wasn't expensive holidays, big birthday parties, or how much we earned.

What they cherished most was simple: *time*.

Time to talk. Time to play. Time to cry, laugh, or walk together. Time where they felt seen and heard—not rushed or "fit in" between everything else.

Wellbeing Page

The Challenge for All of Us

It can feel overwhelming to add “spending more time with the kids” to an already overloaded schedule. But this isn’t about adding more pressure. It’s about recognising what actually makes the biggest difference.

Your children want your presence. They want you. YOU. Because you’re that big and important in their lives!.

Even teenagers—those fiercely independent, eye-rolling, door-slamming teens—still crave connection. One of our older daughters recently asked for a walk along the beach after a long day. I was exhausted. I almost said no. But I got up and went. Five kilometres and one heart-to-heart later, she was all smiles—and so was I.

What Can You Do Right Now?

Here are a few simple ways you can start prioritising time and connection in your family, even in small, meaningful doses:

1. Create Moments, Not Events

You don’t need hours—sometimes just 10–15 minutes of undivided attention means the world. A bedtime chat. A shared joke. A walk around the block. A spontaneous milkshake run. A choice to ignore your phone, the red notifications, the emails, and the addictive algorithm for five minutes so you can spend it with your child.

2. Ask These 3 Questions

Start your own version of the “PPI” with your kids:

- What’s going well?
- What’s not?
- How can we do better?

You might be surprised by what they say—and how seen they feel just by being asked.

3. Be Interruptible

Sometimes connection comes at inconvenient times—like when you’re falling into bed or reading a book. If they’re reaching out, consider pausing the task and tuning in. These moments matter. (Note – they are often unlikely to interrupt you on a device. And you are unlikely to budge when you’re on one. Be careful with how screens make you appear to your child.)

4. Make Time Their Way

Each child connects differently. One might want to chat. Another prefers side-by-side activities like cooking or gaming. Follow their lead.

Wellbeing Page

5. Remember: It's Not Forever

The days can feel long, but the years are short. Before we know it, they'll be grown. And what they'll remember most isn't how clean the house was, but whether we *were there*—really there.

Just like dollars are the currency of our economy, connection (feeling seen, heard, and valued) is the currency of our relationships.

Parenting isn't about being perfect. It's about being present. In a world full of distractions and pressures, choosing to give our children our time is one of the most powerful ways we say "I love you."

So tonight, even if you're tired, pause for a moment. Ask a question. Play that card game. Sit on the edge of their bed and just listen.

Because in your child's eyes, love is spelled T-I-M-E—and that's what they'll remember.

Student Attendance

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day 🗣️🗣️🗣️🗣️🗣️



OK reasons to stay home from school



sick



natural disasters



It's **NOT OK** to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, go on holidays

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even 1 day can make a difference

1 day off school each fortnight

=

Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years



Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before

Good attendance begins in Prep



It's where good habits begin

ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY



*Based on historical data.

What parents can do

Promote the importance of school

Get to know the teacher

Go to school events

Read the school newsletter

Be organised at home

Supervise homework

Ask about your child's day

Volunteer to help at school

Get involved in your child's school

2nd Hand Uniform Stall

2ND HAND UNIFORM STALL

**Tuesday
9th December**

EFTPOS ONLY - NO CASH

**HELD OUTSIDE THE
ADMIN 8.45-9.30AM**



Grade 4

Last term, the Grade 4 students explored the inquiry question 'How has computer technology impacted our lives?' Through discussions, research, and hands-on activities, they discovered how technology shapes the way we learn, connect, and communicate every day.

In the **Taking Action** stage of our inquiry, students used what they learned to **make a difference in our school community**. They designed **educational posters** to teach others about responsible and balanced technology use.

Their posters focused on important topics such as:

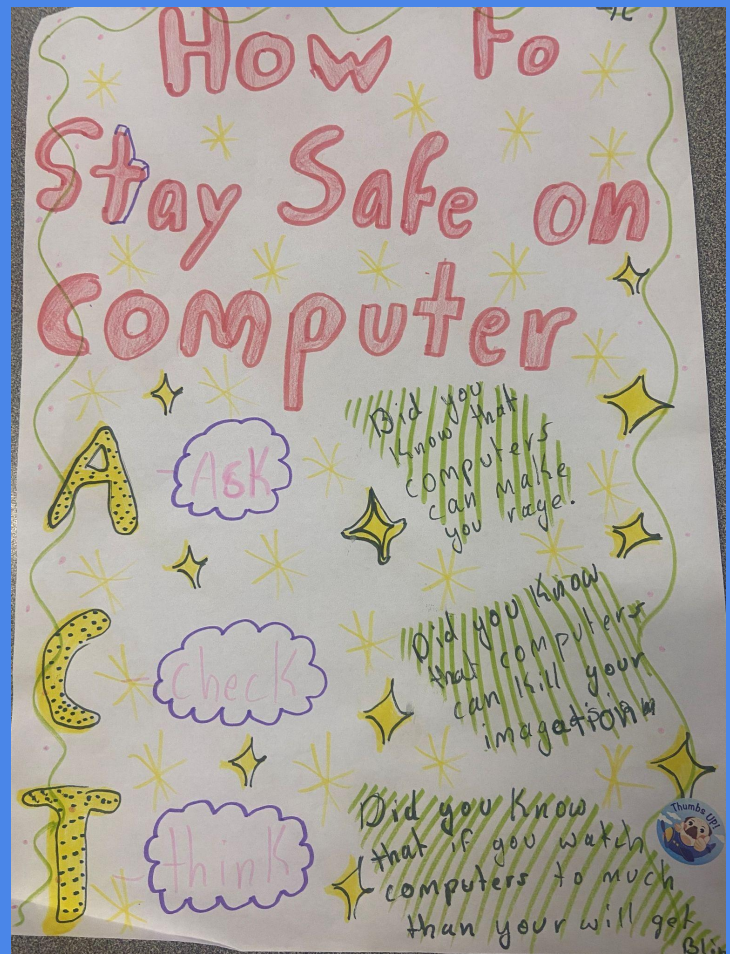
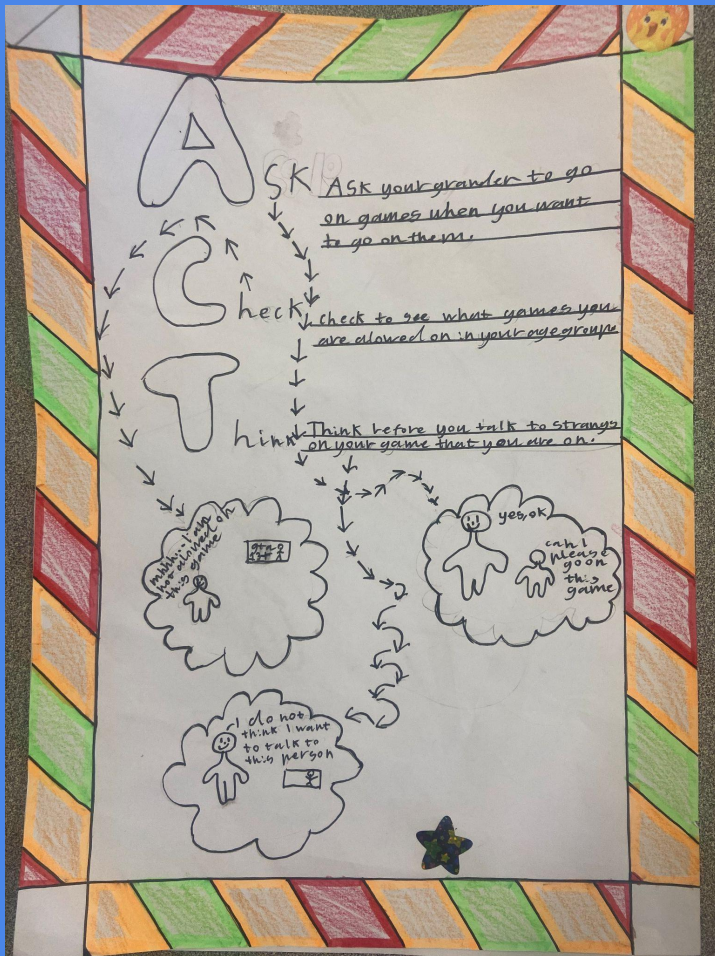
- **Healthy tech habits for students**
- **Balancing screen time at home and school**
- **Internet and online safety for young children**



Grade 4

Students carefully planned, researched, and created colourful, informative displays aimed at helping their peers make positive choices with technology.

It's been wonderful to see our students not only build their understanding of computer technology but also take meaningful action to **educate and empower others**.



2026 Prep Enrolment

The background of the entire page is a vibrant blue. It is decorated with several stylized, multi-colored rainbows in various sizes and orientations. The rainbows feature bands of yellow, orange, red, pink, and teal. Some rainbows have white spiral patterns along their outer edges. These decorative elements are placed around the central text and at the bottom of the page.

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



Marine Ambassadors Report

Last term the Marine Ambassadors went on an excursion to Tooradin to learn about coastal health. At Tooradin we went on a walk beside the Inlet to learn about some native Australian plants. After our nature walk we planted some more native plants to create food and habitat for bandicoots. Skyla from Living Culture informed us about Indigenous culture including important weapons like boomerangs, clubs and a spear thrower. There were also possum skins that the Bunurong used as clothing. She also showed us varied plants that are used in the smoking ceremony to purify and welcome someone to their land.

We also did a beach sand litter sorting activity find the most common items found at the beach and in the ocean. Some of these things are

- soy sauce red caps (from the little Sushi fish)
- batteries
- fishing hooks and sinkers
- hair ties.
- glass.

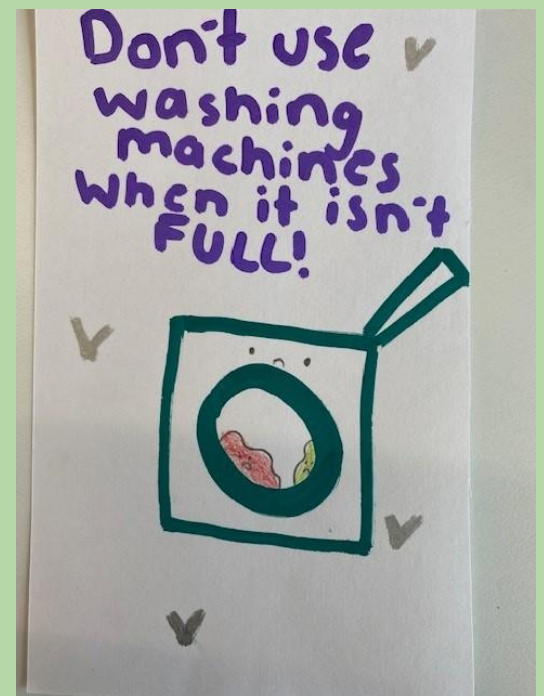
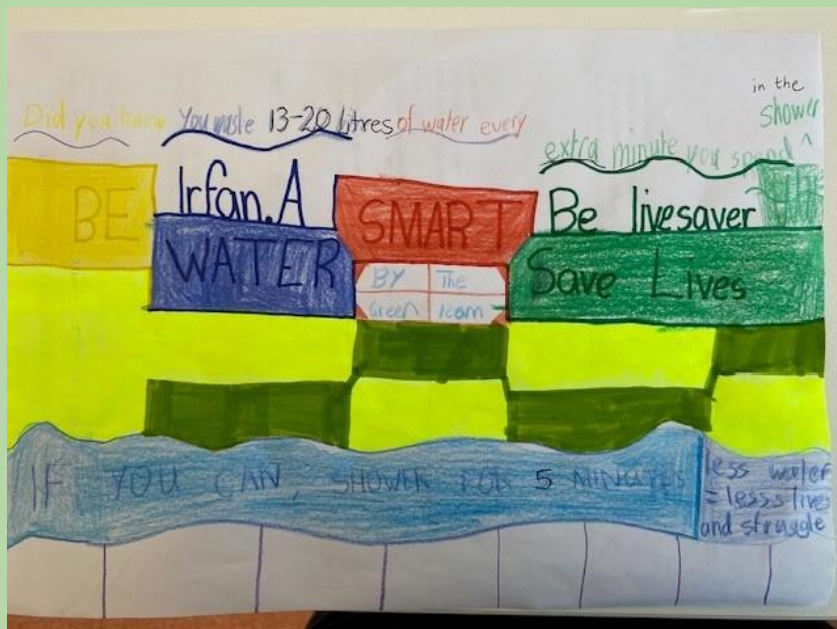


Colgate Recycling program
Bring your old plastic toothbrushes,
electric toothbrush heads,
empty toothpaste tubes to the Eco
cubby for recycling year round.



SAVING WATER - have a 3-5 minute shower!
Let's work together to save water!
by the Green Team

Did you know that you waste 13-20 Litres of water for every extra minute that you are in the Shower!



Always run a FULL load of washing in the washing machine and a FULL load in the dishwasher.

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, like saying hello with a smile.

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 safe



Play with the games and apps that are yours



Only talk with people you know



Some things should be kept private



Be safe

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?

Be kind



Say kind things



Take turns



Ask before you take a photo



Be kind

Teach children to be kind and respectful in digital contexts.

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 saying hello with a smile.

Message 2: Take turns

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?

Ask for help



Tell a grown-up



Check before you tap



You won't get in trouble



Ask for help

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.

When children are playing with digital technology often things happen that they didn't expect. It can be the same for grown-ups too! 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?

Important Parent Resources

PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



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.

Every Minute Counts

5 minutes	• 3 days lost
10 minutes	• 6.5 days lost
15 minutes	• 10 days lost
20 minutes	• 13 days lost
30 minutes	• 19 days lost

But I was only a BIT late?



In a school Year

Honesty

We are truthful in what we say and do, people can rely on us and trust us.



Responsibility

We make good choices and are accountable for our actions.



Strathaird



Primary School

School
Values
PROGRAM



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.