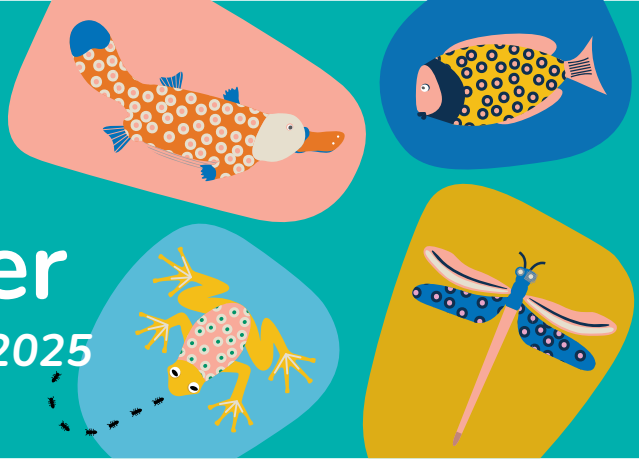
Week 4, Term 1

Newsletter

Friday 21 February 2025



Deanside Primary School

Important Dates

- **Friday 21st February:** 2:45pm Whole School Assembly (Gym)
- **Friday 28th February:** 2:45pm Whole School Assembly (Gym)
- **Tuesday 4th March:** GRIP student leadership excursion (Student Leaders)
- **Friday 7th March:** Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)
- **Monday 24th March:** Grade 3-6 Athletics Carnival Excursion
- **Friday 4th April:** Last day of Term 1 2:30pm finish

Principal Report

Dear Deanside Primary School Community,

So much can happen in a fortnight! Thank you to our dedicated staff for their ongoing work and commitment to shaping the education provided at Deanside. We are achieving so much, and I am super proud of what is being delivered in all learning areas.

Traffic, Parking, Infringements and Fines...

The growth of Deanside Primary School continues. Fun fact; on the 30th January we had 508 students – as of this week we have 538. That's an increase of 30 students since the school year started. As a result of this, it means that it increases a lot of things. However, one of the biggest impacts is on traffic around the school during drop off and pick up times. This is causing frustration and stress for students as well as parents/carers trying to safely collect their children from school.

It would be great to see our families displaying our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Excellence and Care when navigating the driving around the school.

Some very simple tips –

· Please drive 40km/h or less during school pick up and drop off times (kids are highly unpredictable and can make unsafe choices that we must be alert to as drivers).

· Please make sure your children are wearing seatbelts.

· Please do not hold and talk on mobile phones while driving around the school (its illegal).

· Please read signage around the school before you park.

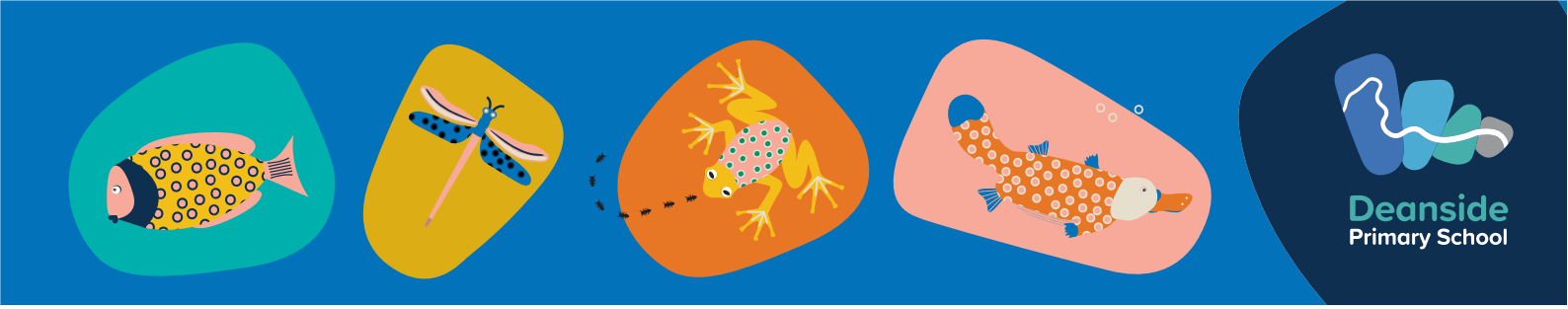
· Please do not do U turns in the highly congested areas – please note it is illegal to do a U turn over a solid white line.

· Please do not double park – it simply creates additional traffic congestion.

· Please do not STOP in the middle of the road and let children out of the car.

· Please do not park on the nature strip or in driveways of residence.

· Please accept that you may need to park your car and walk to the school entrance points – on wet days; please bring an umbrella.



Both the Deanside Kinder and Deanside Aspire have expressed frustration at families choosing to park in their centre car parks. This is not appropriate and unfortunately they will have to escalate this to have cars removed/towed – as these spaces are only for visitors to their centres.

I am trying to advocate strongly for our school community. I have met with representatives from Melton Council to express constant frustrations of families who raise complaints with me about traffic and parking. They have walked away from the meeting with a list of items that they will begin to plan for over the coming weeks/months. I am hopeful that with their action it will assist in streamlining traffic movement around the school.

Melton Council have also said that they will now have to make regular visits to begin issuing infringements. This is now our last resort as there is far too many unsafe behaviours happening with traffic. Further to this, the police will now schedule regular visits past the school during peak times and also issue fines.

It is unfortunate that I am now having to escalate infringement processes as I know that finances are tough for everybody, but my main priority is the student safety. I am hoping that this communication is a helpful strategy to align parents driving behaviours around the school.

Many of you have now seen me on Conservatory Drive each morning in the 'Drop and Go' area (clearly marked with a red line). This is **not** a parking area. This is designed for families to drive up to the area, safely place their car in park and have the children exit the car on the curb side. You will see me reinforcing this message at the front regularly until the community embrace the purpose of this space. Thank you to our community for embracing this as it is already making a significant difference to traffic flow.

If you are finding the parking and movement of traffic difficult, I encourage you to raise your concerns with Melton Council. You can call them on 97477200 or their general enquiry form - https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Online-Forms/General-enquiry-form or use the app Snap, Send, Solve

Furthermore, if you want to completely miss the traffic issues – book your children into Before and After School care with Team Kids – 1300 035 000 or teamkids.com.au

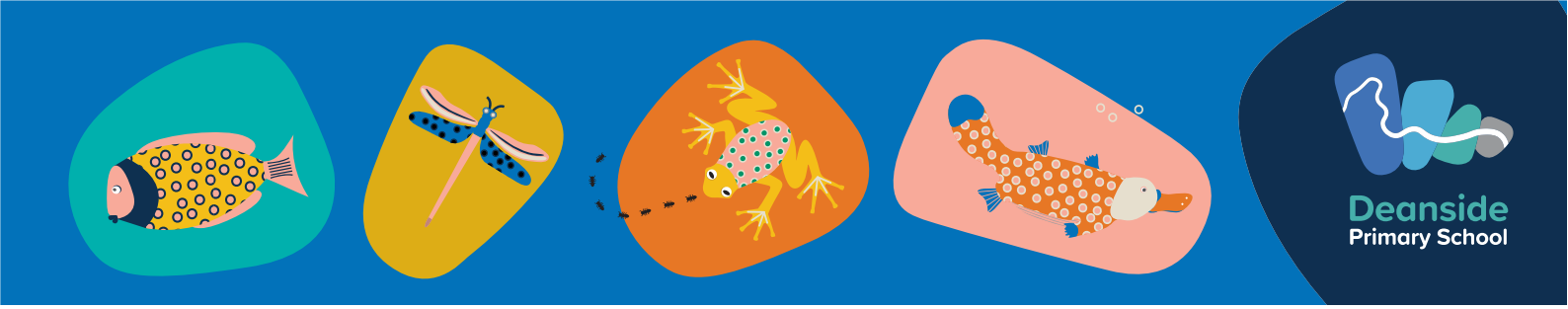
This will see you avoid the congestion and know that your children are fed and having fun in a great program (for a very low cost) and you will always be guaranteed a park at pick up/drop off. Please note the TeamKids program starts at 6:30am and finishes at 6:30pm.

Let's work together as a community and care for our kids.

School Growth and Enrolments

I am pleased to present our staff for 2025. We are very fortunate as a school to currently have all positions in the school filled. This is allowing us to forge ahead with our planned whole school development and further create the best opportunities for our students.

Parents are asked that if you have any concerns regarding your child, please use Compass to reach out to your child's teacher to make a meeting time.
Depending on the needs of your child you may also choose to email the Grade level Team Leader (in **bold** below) as well as our wellbeing team (Mitchell and Bianca) also listed below.



Stuart Telford	Principal	
Lina Stephens	Assistant Principal	Curriculum & Innovation
Mitchell Johnstone	Assistant Principal	**Wellbeing & Inclusion**
Bianca Gavin	Leading Teacher	**Wellbeing & Inclusion**
Danielle Stasinowsky	Learning Specialist	Juniors (P-2)
Jade Farrar	Learning Specialist	Seniors (3-6)
Anna Huynh	***Team Leader***	**Prep A**
Milan Dhungel	Classroom Teacher	**Prep B**
Chrissy Georgiou	Classroom Teacher	**Prep C**
Richelle Reyes	Classroom Teacher	**Prep D**
Mara (Maz) Santos	Classroom Teacher	**Prep E**
Merryn de Livera	***Team Leader***	**1A**
Meagan Merel	Classroom Teacher	**1B**
Emma Marcetic	Classroom Teacher	**1C**
Courteney Marchione	Classroom Teacher	**1D**
Mary-Grace Salvacion	Classroom Teacher	**1E**
Leanne Dimovska	***Team Leader***	**2A**
Danielle Stasinowsky	Classroom Teacher	**2B**
Ceyda Gokmese	Classroom Teacher	**2C**
Simon Radford	**Team Leader**	**3A**
Jessica Babic	Classroom Teacher	**3B**
Claudia Bartolo	Classroom Teacher	**3C**
Melissa Sacco	***Team Leader***	**4A**
Heidie Watts	Classroom Teacher	**4B**
Svetlana Markovic	Classroom Teacher	**4C**
Lanie de Castro	***Team Leader***	**5A**
Maddison Lorimer	Classroom Teacher	**5B**
Patrick Kelly	Classroom Teacher	**5C**
Nicholaus Linton	***Team Leader***	**6A**
Jade Farrar	Classroom Teacher	**6B**

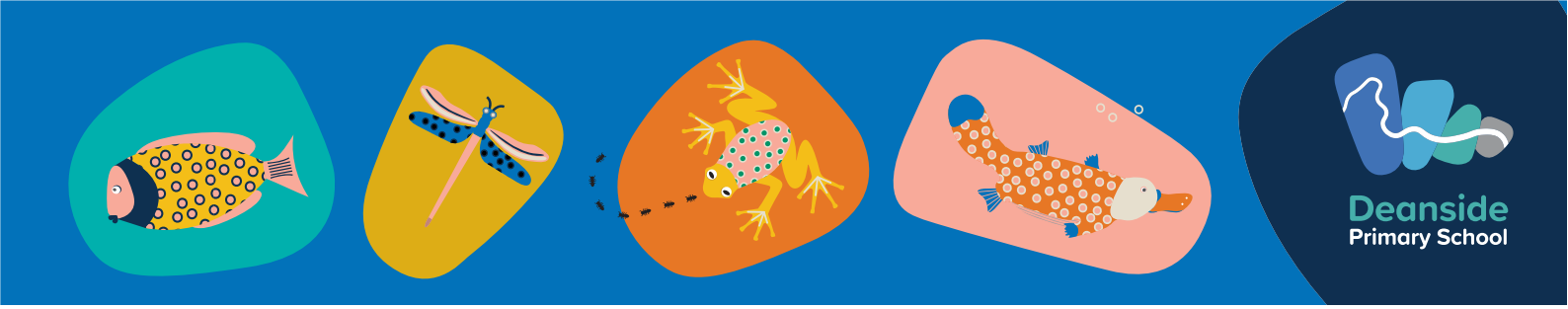
Laiton Sullivan	*Team Leader*	**PE**
Jessica Dominko	Specialist Teacher	**PE**
Cherie Mamo	Specialist Teacher	**Performing Arts**
Kerri Popczyk	Specialist Teacher	**Visual Arts**
Ises Lay	Specialist Teacher	**STEM**
Melanie Soulsby	Specialist Teacher	**Kitchen Garden**
Tara Lindsay	Specialist Teacher	**Tutor**
Maddie Newman	Specialist Teacher	**Tutor**
Shana Brooks	Business Manager	**Admin**
Sue Kitanovski	Enrolment Officer	**Admin**
Renee Mordaunt	OHS & First Aid	**Admin**
Janae Leer	Reception	**Admin**
Rick Costabile	Grounds and Maintenance Manager	
Nicole Borg	**Teacher Aide**	
Rebecca Palmer	**Teacher Aide**	
Marta Buras	**Teacher Aide**	
Kimberly Deckert	**Teacher Aide**	
Eli Kotevski	**Teacher Aide**	
Maja Lozanovska	**Teacher Aide**	
Judy Yang	**Teacher Aide**	
Joanne Felice	**Teacher Aide**	
Rosie Velardi	**Teacher Aide**	
Maha Abd El Moamen	**Teacher Aide**	
Tania Baldacchino	**Teacher Aide**	
Marcia Castellanos	**Teacher Aide**	
Sharan Kaur	**Teacher Aide**	

School Tours

We are currently experiencing a high number of enquiries regarding school tours for 2026 enrolments. We are not yet able to run tours or even thinking about 2026 just yet. If you have friends/family wanting school tours, we will begin offering them in Term 2. Keep an eye on our socials for more details.

2025 Preps

I wanted to take a moment to congratulate our 2025 Preps on the way they have started primary school life. They have quickly developed routine and are engaging in learning opportunities with confidence. A special thank you to Miss Anna, Miss Richelle, Miss Milan, Ms Chrissy and Miss Mara for the way they have transitioned our students into school life. We also want to thank parents for following advice of naming hats/jumpers, keeping water bottles full and following our advice around brain food and healthy lunch boxes.



School Council – Calling for Parent Representation

I would like to thank our 2024 School Council committee members for their commitment to Deanside Primary School. Thank you to our parents John MOORE (President), Harleen KAUR (Vice President), Redwanur RAHMAN, Samantha PAHLKE, Bhargavi ARJUN as well as our Department of Education representatives Lina Stephens, Emma Bainbridge, Juliet Berger and Leanne Dimovski for their commitment to this group and overseeing the essential policy and decision making required to ensure the school was able to meet all aspects of school operation.

Special thank you to Shana Brooks who manages many aspects of School Council operations and documentation behind the scenes.

Thank you to Samantha PAHLKE, Harleen KAUR and Redwanur RAHMAN for their dedication to School Council for the past two years. As a result of their tenure coming to an end, their positions are now being put forward for re-election.

Throughout 2024 Department of Education staff Lina Stephens, Emma Bainbridge and Juliet Berger supported School Council, but due to personal changes they have respectively stepped down from their roles.

As we head towards the election period for 2025, I want to inform our community that Deanside Primary School Council Constituting Order consists of 8 members (5 parents and 3 DET representatives).

Parent Representatives	Department of Education
John MOORE (2026)	Stuart Telford – Executive Officer
Bhargavi ARJUN (2026)	Mitchell Johnstone (2027)
VACANT (2027)	Leanne Dimovska (2026)
VACANT (2027)	
VACANT (2027)	

Therefore, the 2025 Deanside Primary School Council requires **three** (3) Parent Representatives to form a School Council quorum. (NOTE: School Council can also determine whether a Community Representative is required to meet the needs of any future projects).

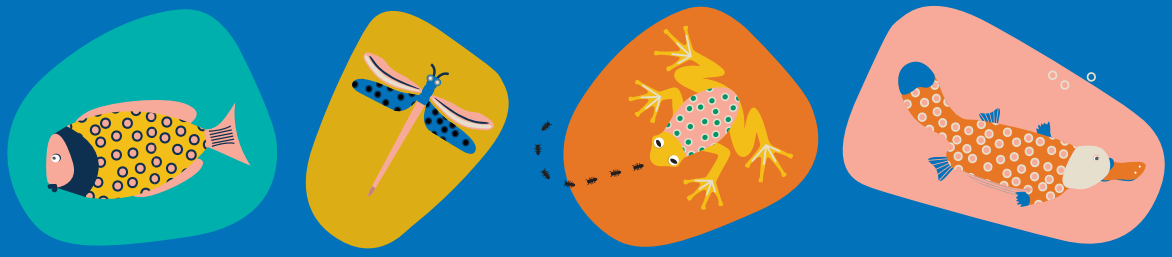
I invite all parents to consider nominating for School Council and take an active role in their child(ren's) education.

Please use this link as a source of information - https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-elections/policy

What is the School Council?

The School Council is a voluntary group which consists of the Principal and elected parents and Department of Education representatives. The School Council is responsible for determining school policy, the management of the school's finances, buildings and grounds.

The school council runs the sub-committees. These committees are open for any member of the school community to be a member and parents are urged to be involved in any area in which they may have an



Deanside Primary School

interest. Each sub-committee has a nucleus of members of the School Council and Staff with a School Councillor as convenor. These meetings are run in the week prior to the school council meeting.

The ***Finance Sub-Committee*** is responsible for bringing recommendations to School Council regarding the budget and for expenditure control.

The ***Community Sub-Committee***, members of this committee are involved in organising fundraising initiatives, researching and applying for grants as well as maintaining the buildings and grounds and ensuring we maintain an environmentally friendly and attractive school.

School Council meets twice per term for a minimum of eight meetings for the year. We have assigned this year's meeting days with the whole school calendar as follows.

Term 1 - Meeting 1 – Tuesday 18th March 2025 @ 9am - AGM then 1st School Council meeting with Dec, Jan, Feb financials.

Term 2 - Meeting 2 – Tuesday 29th April 2025 @ TBC

Term 2 - Meeting 3 – Tuesday 20th May 2025 @ TBC

Term 2 - Meeting 4 – Tuesday 24th June 2025 @ TBC

Term 3 - Meeting 5 – Tuesday 22nd July 2025 @ TBC

Term 3 - Meeting 6 – Tuesday 26th August 2025 @ TBC

Term 4 - Meeting 7 – Tuesday 11th November 2025 @ TBC

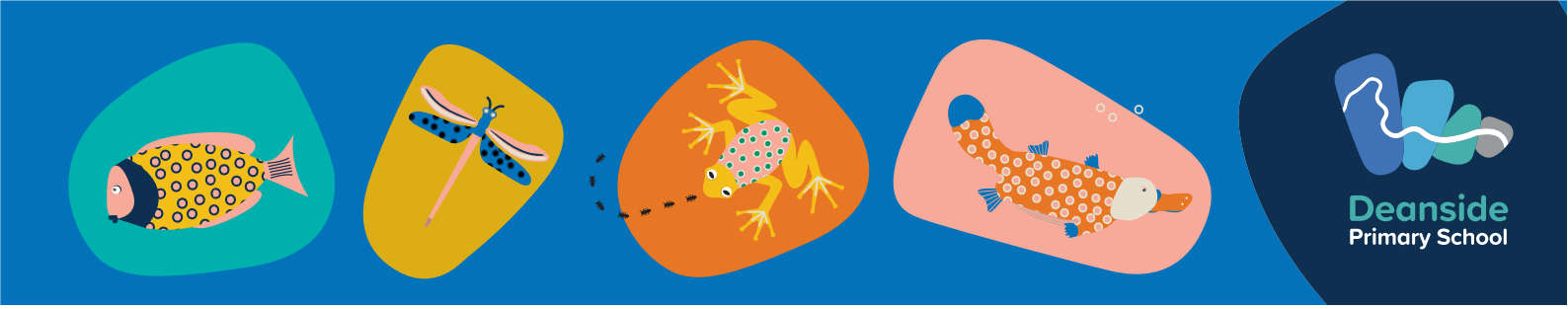
Term 4 - Meeting 8 – Tuesday 9th December 2025 @ TBC

If you are interested in being a member of School Council or would like information about what is required in this role, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school for more information.

Nomination forms can be collected from the office. You can choose to 'self-nominate' or you can nominate a parent (with their consent).

In alignment with the Department of Education School Council Election Guidelines we will now conduct the process and call for nominations, this will determine whether voting will be necessary.

1.	Friday 21st February 2025	Notice of election and call for nominations
2.	Friday 28th February 2025 at **4pm**	Closing date for nominations
3.	Tuesday 4th March 2025	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted
4.	Friday 7th March 2025 (if required)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed on or before
5.	Thursday 13th March 2025 at **4pm** (if required)	Close of ballot
6.	Friday 14th March 2025 at **9am** (if required)	Vote count
7.	Friday 14th March 2025	Declaration of poll
8.	Tuesday 18th March 2025 @ **9am**	'First Council' meeting to elect office bearers (Also date of next School Council Meeting)



Duty of Care for Students

The school grounds are supervised by staff between 8:45am and 9:00am and children may be left by parents from 8.45am onwards when the gates are opened. Students are supervised at 3:30pm to 3:45pm after school. This is the Duty of Care offered by the school at these times. If you are not able to work to these times, it is a parent's responsibility to oversee the care of their children. For a small fee, children can attend our Before and After School Care Program run by TeamKids. It operates every morning (from 6:30am) and every afternoon (until 6:30pm). Student numbers continue to grow as families become more aware of what this program offers.

Students are provided with a range of foods and activities while they are attending this program. It is great to see such a structured and caring program in our school.

For more information head to Team Kids – 1300 035 000 or teamkids.com.au

Thank you to our families, for your efforts in getting the children to school between 8:45am and 9:00am and for adults being out of the school yard by 9am. Schools do run by very tight timetables, so we thank our community for your cooperation allowing yard duty to be able to conclude their duties and attend to classes/meetings. This also allows for our morning routines for our leaners to be much more settled. Our morning circles start right on 9am and they are very important in setting your child up for success each day. We know the traffic is bad but unfortunately this is beyond our control, and we cannot delay the start of the school day. If we lose 10 mins each day over the term, we lose 8.5 hours of teaching time. Every minute counts in our learning time.

Arriving Late to School

Please remember that if your child(ren) are late to school they must present to the office before heading to class to receive a late pass and have their attendance recorded. This eliminates absence notifications being sent to parents causing unnecessary worry.

Cultural Celebrations

As a school we will always do our best to recognise all the various aspects of cultures that are connected to our school. If you/your family have an interest in aligning specific cultural events with appropriate decorations at our school office, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask. I'm sure it would make our office look amazing!

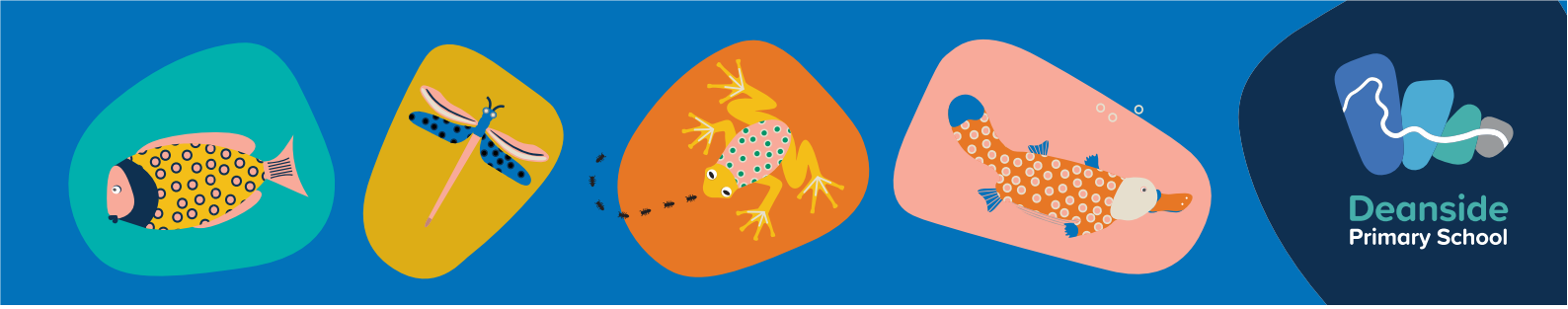
Mobile Phones Policy

A reminder that students who bring mobile phones or smart watches to school are asked to hand them into the office on arrival at school. If you require further information, please refer to our mobile phone policy on our school website.

https://deansideps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/35-Mobile-Phones-Student-Use-Policy.docx

Bikes and Scooters

It is great to see lots of students being active and coming to school on bikes or scooters. Please be aware that all students who ride to school whether on a bike or a scooter must wear a helmet.



NAPLAN

Our Grade 3 and 5 students will be involved in NAPLAN assessments this term. The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12th March 2025 and finishes on Monday 24th March 2025.

These tests are a snapshot of your child's development in Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. They do not capture everything about your child as they cannot measure many other skills you value such as Care, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Character. We ask families to maintain normal routines on the days of tests and encourage them to try their best.

For more information please access -

https://www.nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/naplan-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf

Dogs on School Grounds

School guidelines are that all dogs are to please remain outside of school grounds with the exception of working or therapy dogs. Please be mindful that some students are not comfortable around dogs. Owners are encouraged to respect others when walking their dogs outside the school grounds and maintain a short leash so they do not jump on unsuspecting children.

School Assembly

There will be an assembly every Friday afternoon @ 2:45pm in the gym. Parents are always welcome to attend. Gates open at 2:35pm.

School Values

Our School values are important to us. Remember to show **Respect**, Be **Responsible**, Strive for **Excellence** and show genuine **Care** for others and the environment.

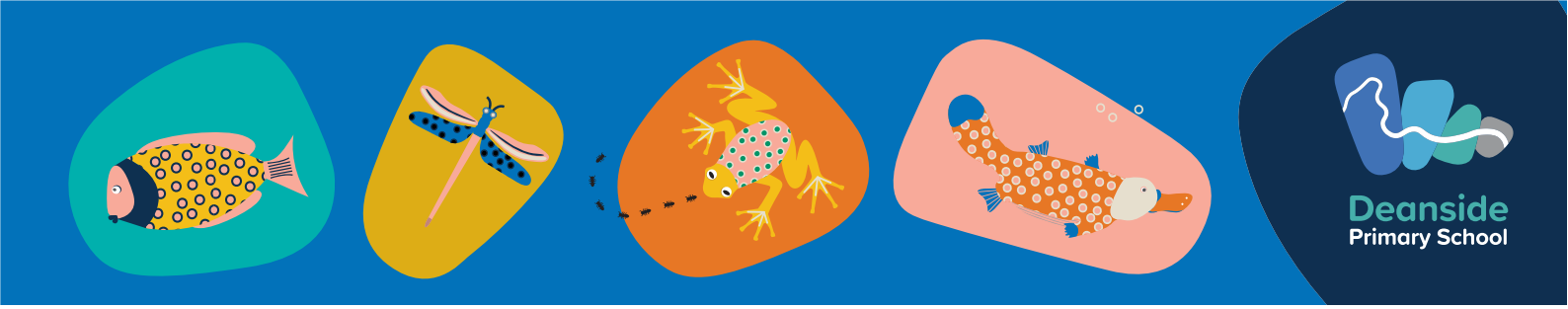
The dedicated staff at Deanside look forward to celebrating the success of your child's learning with you and your child. Looking forward to an amazing year of learning and student growth in 2025!

Stuart Telford
Principal

Deanside Primary School is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered.

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and pay respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.

P: (03) 8080 5444
E: deanside.ps@education.vic.gov.au
@deansideps @DeansidePS



Student of the Week 1 Term 1

Principal Award – Kaiden 3B

Assistant Principal Award Ms Lina-Grace 6B

Assistant Principal Award Mr Johnstone – Alexa 5B

Wellbeing Award Ms Gavin – Jess 4A

1A – Abdulrahman

1B - Mia

1C - Janhvi

1D – Jayden

1E - Sophia

2A - Ivy

2B - Nuha

2C - Vivienne

3A - Audree

3B - Parikshith

3C - Toby

4A - Keane

4B - Kason

4C – Roger

5A – Rayan

5B – Sama

5C – Zoe

6A – Peehu

6B – Ramroop

PE with Mr Laiton – Toby 3C

PE with Ms Jess – Lachlan 1E

STEM – Vedansh 3A

Visual Arts – Tyler 1A

Performing Arts – Mia 1B

Kitchen Garden – Osith 2B

Student of the Week 2 Term 1

Principal Award – N/A

Assistant Principal Award Ms Lina-Pavlene 1C

Assistant Principal Award Mr Johnstone – Bismaad 6B

Wellbeing Award Ms Gavin – Aston 4B

1A – Tyler

1B – Sofia H

1C - Abida

1D – Arveen

1E – Lachlan

2A - Hamza

2B - Steven

2C - Naksh

3A - Julian

3B - Ayva

3C - Ashley

4A - Jeron

4B - Nicholas

4C – Fatimah

5A – Rajveer

5B – David

5C – Amara

6A – Christian

6B – Rio

PE with Mr Laiton – Navaeh 1D

PE with Ms Jess – N/A

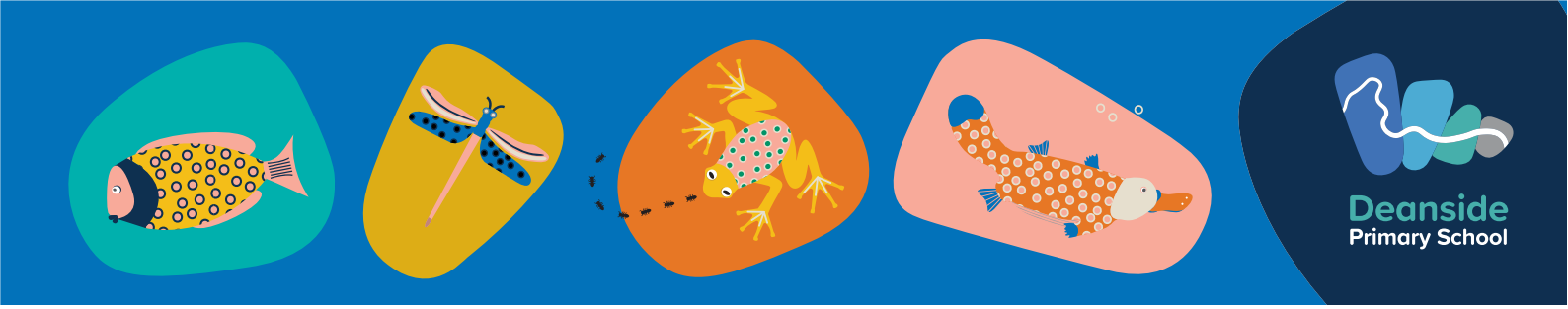
STEM – Maryam 4A

Visual Arts – Darvy 1D

Performing Arts – Libby 3C

Kitchen Garden – Kason 4B

P: (03) 8080 5444
E: deanside.ps@education.vic.gov.au
@deansideps @DeansidePS



Student of the Week 3 Term 1

Principal Award – All Grade 6 students

AP Award Ms Lina- N/A

AP Award Mr Johnstone – N/A

Wellbeing Award Ms Gavin – Archer 4A

Prep A - Carter

Prep B - Niya

Prep C - Dia

Prep D – Rosalind

Prep E - Ibrahim

1A – Zarko

1B - Bryandeep

1C - Ayaan

1D – Rehmat

1E - Abubakar

2A - Sanya

2B - Hargun

2C – Viaan

3A - Yashvi

3B - Evan

3C - Aeric

4A - Gurseerat

4B - Samah

4C – Angel

5A – Shreya

5B – Hailo

5C – Shivraj

6A – Tegh

6B – Isaac

PE with Mr Laiton – Katarina 5A

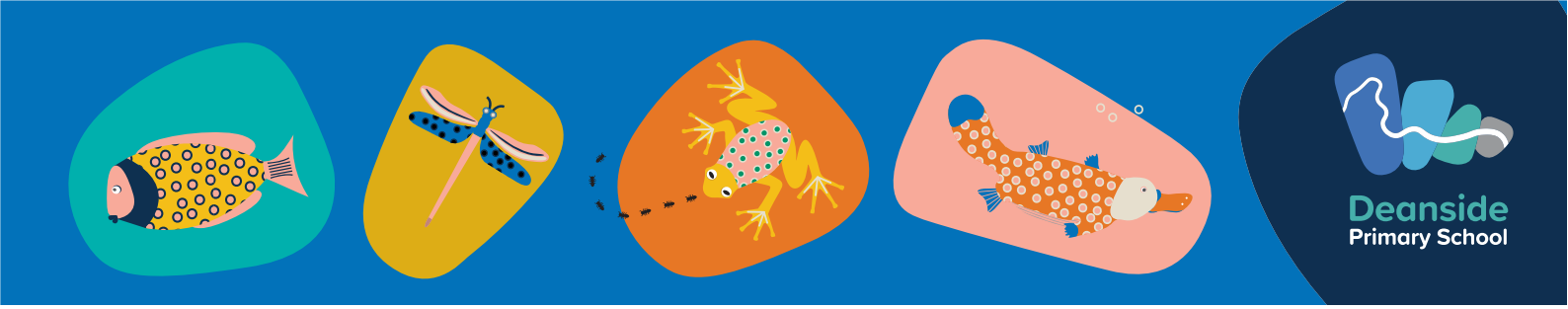
PE with Ms Jess – Aston 4B

STEM – Meron 3B

Visual Arts – Tiannah 4A

Performing Arts – Noah 5B

Kitchen Garden – Jasmine 4C



Student of the Week 4 Term 1

Principal Award – Lilian 2C

AP Award Ms Lina- N/A

AP Award Mr Johnstone – Fares 2C

Wellbeing Award Ms Gavin – Gee 4B

Prep A - Zara

Prep B - Anveer

Prep C - Ashal

Prep D – Ravnoor

Prep E - Evelyn

1A – Deeya

1B - Gurfateh

1C - Niyamat

1D – Advit

1E - Harvey

2A - Arpan

2B - Shahan

2C - Charvik

3A - Warren

3B - Kuai

3C - Libby

4A - Lian

4B - Reyansh

4C – Aynur

5A – Sophia

5B – Anureet

5C – Hannah

6A – Simone

6B – Akachi

PE with Mr Laiton – Alenka Prep A

PE with Ms Jess – N/A

STEM – Hargun 2B

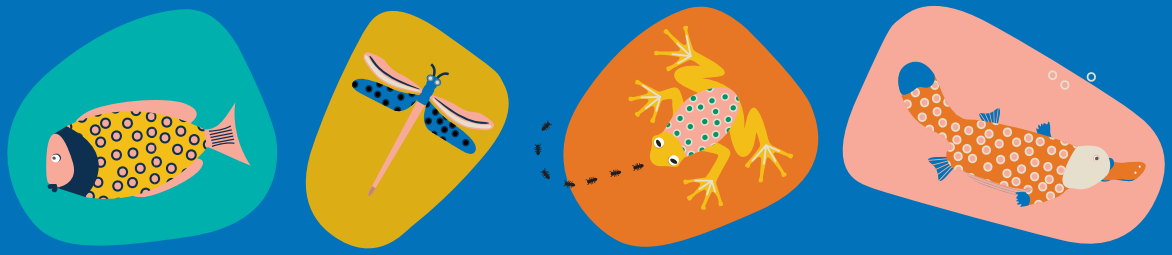
Visual Arts – Tyler 1A

Performing Arts – Vincentia 2A

Kitchen Garden – Ramroop 6B

P: (03) 8080 5444
E: deanside.ps@education.vic.gov.au
@deansideps @DeansidePS

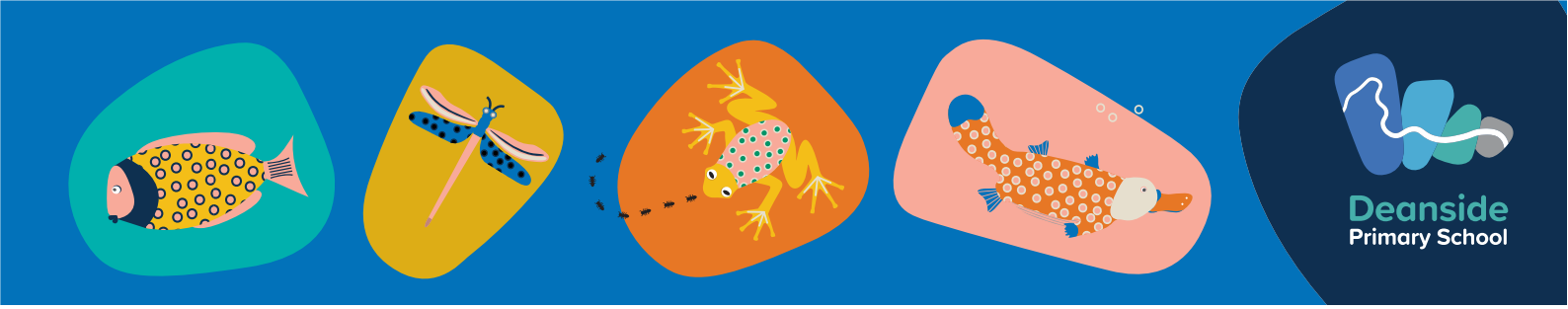
Excellence Respect Responsibility Care



Deanside
Primary School

P: (03) 8080 5444
E: deanside.ps@education.vic.gov.au
@deansideps @DeansidePS

Excellence Respect Responsibility Care



NEWS FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS....

Meet the Teacher

This week, a compass notification and confirmation of attendance, will go home outlining our Meet the Teacher information sessions, which are scheduled for week 6. These information sessions are a chance for teachers share key processes, routines and expectations needed to ensure success for all students. It also will give families a chance to ask questions and clarify any wonderings they may have.

Each classroom teacher will have 3 allocated time slots, which will allow for families with multiple children to attend. It will also give students a chance to showcase their classroom and some of their learning so far.

Please ensure that when you receive your link, that you book in your time slot as we will need to keep a tight timeline on each session provided.

Meet the Teacher: Tuesday 4th March (week 6)

Presentation and Open classroom completed by individual teachers. Families to choose **1 session per student only.**

Session 1

3:40 - 3:50 - Classroom Walk through (student led)

3:50 - 4 – School Presentation

Session 2

4:05 - 4:15 - Classroom Walk through (student led)

4:15 - 4:25- School Presentation

Session 3

4:30 - 4:40 - Classroom Walk through (student led)

4:40 - 4:50 – School Presentation

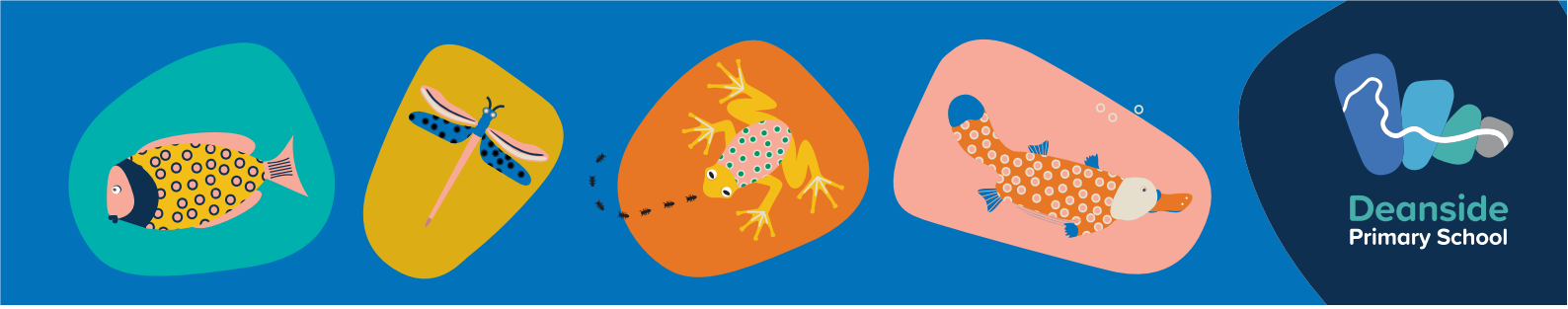
Parking During Meet the Teacher Afternoon

Please ensure you are parking in clear parking bays as Melton Council will be patrolling the area. Please also be mindful that you are not parking in residential driveways or blocking access to the road.

At no point should you park in either the kindergarten (Meadows Drive) or the Child Care centres (Conservatory Drive) carparks. These are only to be used by those who attend the centres.

Homework

Homework will be sent out next Tuesday 25th February. The main purpose of homework is to support the learning that is happening at school. It also should promote an authentic connection and a sense of independence and choice, as they choose the activities they wish to complete, as well as some tasks that must be completed. Homework is an independent task. It should require little support from you, so please ensure you are reminding your children to complete it. More information will be provided when the homework is sent out.



Celebrating Birthdays

We acknowledge the importance of celebrating your child's birthday with their school friends. We love singing Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating. As much as possible, we will make your child's birthday special at school. However, **we do not accept any food/cake for birthdays**, as we want to ensure the safety of all our children. We are more than happy to hand out party favour bags, however, **please note that no lollies/food are to be added to those bags**. Each student's birthday will be recognised in the classroom.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy for students in Year 3 & Year 5. The tests are broken up into 4 areas, which include Writing, Reading, Numeracy and Conventions of Language.

This year, NAPLAN will be held over a two-week period in **weeks 7 and 8** of term 1. More specific information for families who have children in Year 3 & Year 5 will be sent via compass next week, regarding dates, times and parent information.

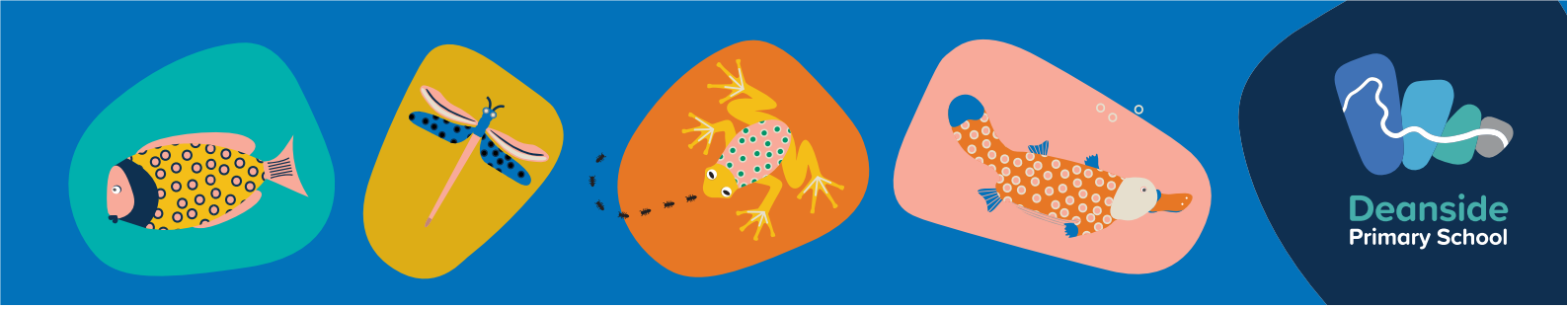
Thanks,

Lina Stephens

Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Innovation)

NAPLAN Schedule - 2025

Week 7				
Monday 10th	Tuesday 11th	Wednesday 12th	Thursday 13th	Friday 14th
		Year 3: Writing - 9.30am Year 5: Writing - 9.30am	Year 3: Reading - 9.30am Year 5: Reading - 9.30am	
		Location/s: Year 3 & 5 Classrooms	Location/s: Year 3 & 5 Classrooms	
Week 8				
Monday 17th	Tuesday 18th	Wednesday 19th	Thursday 20th	Friday 21st
Year 3: Language Conventions - 9.30am Year 5: Language Conventions- 9.30am	Year 3: Numeracy - 9.30am Year 5: Numeracy - 9.30am	Catch Up: Writing	Catch Up Sessions	Catch Up Session
Location/s: Year 3 & 5 Classrooms	Location/s: Year 3 & 5 Classrooms	Location/s: TBC	Location/s: TBC	Location/s: TBC



Hello Deanside!

It's been a wonderful (and very busy) start to the school year. What has been noticeable is just how well the students have settled. The learning environment is very calm and students are engaged with the content.

Increasing attendance levels will be a big focus across the school this year. Regular attendance at school is essential to support the learning, wellbeing and safety of children and young people. Low attendance leads to the emergence of gaps in learning, increased challenges in sustaining friendships, and disruption to routine. Parent/carers can consider how they can alleviate challenges in getting their children to school, such as being organised with uniform, school bag and lunches, and minimising the impact of extended family holidays on their child's learning.

The main reasons for absence are:

- Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.
- It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the school term. Any student on a family holiday must have some written correspondence with the office that confirms the dates they will be absent from school. This will support good attendance documentation practice and avoid any confusion.
- "Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts! Staying home because its your birthday or because they want a 'sleep in' is not a valid excuse.
- Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together. Please contact your child's teacher for advice if your child presents this behaviour.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- All absences must have parent explanation regarding the missed school day. This can be completed via Compass, writing an email/letter to the school or calling the school on 8080-5444 to record the details of the absence.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, contact your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with the school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a Department of Education School Attendance Officer. If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Whilst on yard duty and supporting students to get to and from school, I do notice quite a few families without the appropriate measures for safe seating in their cars. As per Victorian regulations, an adult lap-sash seat belt is designed for people with a minimum height of 145 cm. The average child should reach this height between 10 to 12 years of age. Your child must continue using a booster seat or larger forward facing restraint until they have outgrown it. Don't use an adult lap-sash seat belt on a child who isn't tall enough, as this will not provide enough protection in a crash. For further advice, visit: https://transport.vic.gov.au/road-rules-and-safety/child-car-seats-and-restraints/types-of-child-car-seats-and-restraints

Mitch Johnstone

Assistant Principal (Wellbeing and Inclusion)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $154 for primary school students
- $256 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

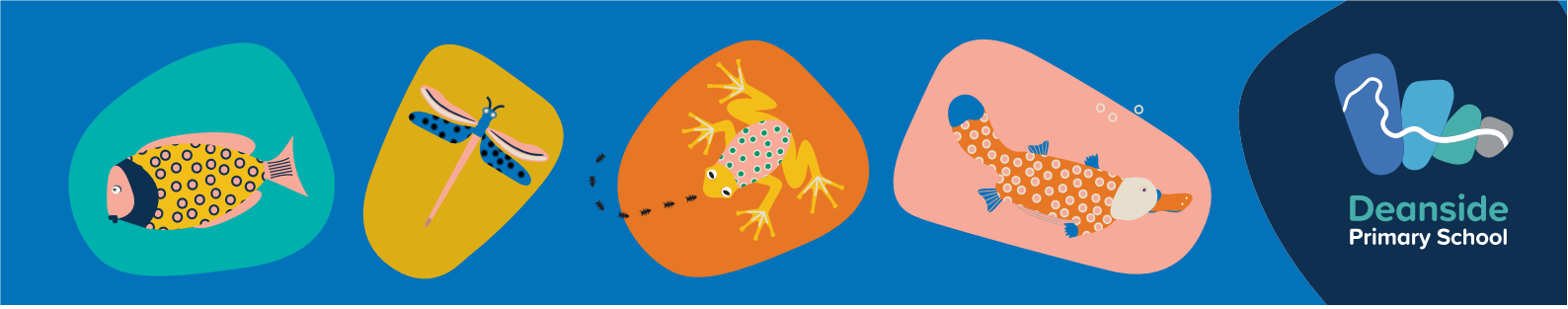
New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**: your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure



NEWS FROM OUR WELLBEING AND INCLUSION LEADING TEACHER....

Hello Deanside!

I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone for making me feel so welcome at Deanside Primary in the few weeks that I have been here. The warmth and support from students, staff, and families have made my transition incredibly smooth, and I am truly grateful to be part of such a wonderful school community. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know everyone and look forward to working together to support the wellbeing and success of all our students.

As we settle into Week 4 there are a few things that I would like you to share to support your child's success this year.

Encouraging a Positive Mindset

Help your child feel excited about school by focusing on the positives, such as reuniting with friends, learning new things, and participating in fun activities. Acknowledge any worries they may have and reassure them that it's okay to feel nervous. Setting small goals together can also help them feel more motivated and prepared.

Re-establishing Routines

Getting back into a school routine is essential for a smooth transition. Adjusting bedtime and wake-up times can help to support a structured morning routine, including time for breakfast and getting ready, which can reduce stress. After school, ensure a balance between homework, relaxation, and play to create a well-rounded daily schedule.

The Importance of Sleep

Quality sleep is crucial for a child's health and learning. Maintain a consistent sleep schedule, ensuring they get the recommended amount of rest. Limit screen time before bed to encourage relaxation, and create a restful environment by keeping their bedroom cool, dark, and quiet. A good night's sleep helps improve focus, mood, and overall well-being.

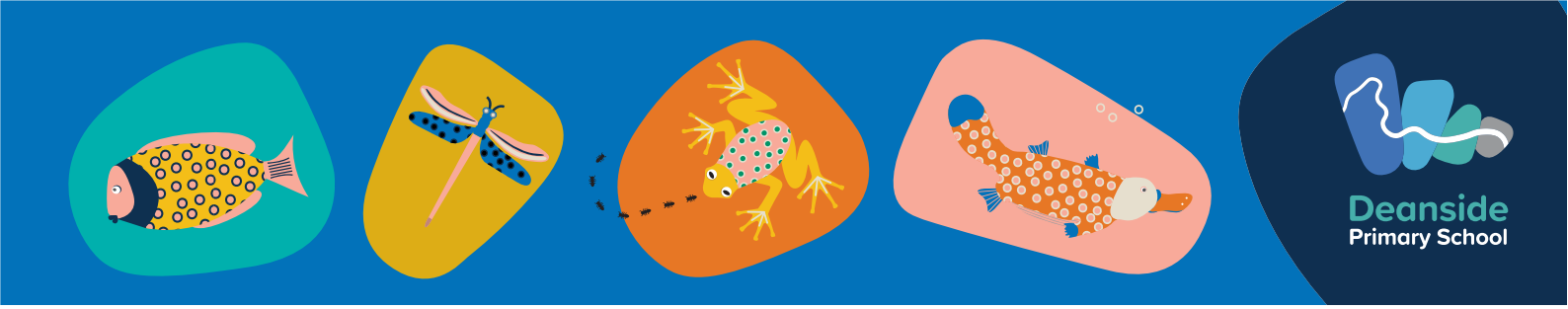
Meal Times and Nutrition

Regular and nutritious meals provide the energy needed for learning and concentration. Set consistent meal times for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and ensure a balanced diet that includes protein, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Involving your child in meal planning can make healthy eating more enjoyable and encourage better food choices.

End-of-Day Conversations

Talking about your child's day helps them process their experiences and feel supported. Ask open-ended questions like, "What was the best part of your day?" or "What are you looking forward to tomorrow?" Actively listen, validate their feelings, and celebrate small achievements to boost their confidence and motivation.

By fostering a structured yet flexible and nurturing environment, you can help your child feel confident, supported, and excited about returning to school.



Providing Opportunities to Relax and Play

Balancing schoolwork with downtime is important for mental well-being. Encourage unstructured play, hobbies, and outdoor activities to help your child unwind. Engaging in family activities such as games, crafts, or walks can also strengthen bonds and create a positive home environment.

Recognising Signs of Stress and Anxiety

Be mindful of behavioral changes, such as irritability, trouble sleeping, or loss of interest in activities, which could signal stress or anxiety. Encourage open conversations about their feelings and teach coping strategies such as breathing exercises, mindfulness, or journaling. If anxiety persists, consider seeking support from a teacher, counselor, or healthcare professional.

Bianca Gavin

Leading Teacher (Wellbeing and Inclusion)