



RUSKIN PARK NEWSLETTER

6th February 2026



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Upcoming Dates

<u>FEBRUARY</u>			
Thursday 19 th	Twilight Sports	Friday 20 th	Bakers Delight
Friday 20 th	Years 3 – 6 Division Swimming	Tuesday 24 th	5/6 Interschool Sports
Wednesday 25 th	Year 2 Mini Boss Incursion	Thursday 26 th	House Athletics
Friday 27th	Subway Lunch	Friday 27th	Curriculum Day
<u>MARCH</u>		Tuesday 31 st	Regional Swimming
Monday 1 st	Division Swimming	<u>APRIL</u>	
Friday 6 th	Year 6 Parliament Incursion	Thursday 2 nd	Easter Raffle
Monday 9th	Labour Day (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)		Free Dress Day
Wednesday 11 th	NAPLAN Begins		Last Day Term 1 (2:30 pm Dismissal)
Friday 13 th	School Photos		
Monday 16 th	Year 6 MCG Excursion		

Principal's Report

The beginning of the year has started exceptionally well, with our new Foundation students settling in beautifully and a strong sense of purpose and calm evident across the classes. It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces over the first week and a half, with students clearly enjoying being back with their friends both in the classroom and outdoors. We are also delighted to welcome many new families to our school in 2026, and it has been lovely to introduce them to the Ruskin community.

Staffing for 2026

Classroom Teachers:

Foundation: Sarah Cornish, Sue Dickinson, Ashleigh Doensen, Max Pfitzner, Amy Rudge

Year 1: Jamie-Lee Campion, Dim Ram Lawt, Jess Rouda, Paige Van Middelkoop

Year 2: Elissa Croft, Ella O'loughlin, Nina Pratley, Josh Taratuta

Year 3: Julie Donaldson, Bradley Flack, Jess O'Sullivan, Olivia Steinfort

Year 4: Simone Barden, Sam Cutcliffe, Chelsea Mill, Blair Price

Year 5: Sam Baldwin, Liz O'Halloran, Jennae Wakefield

Year 6: Ben Coffin, Rochelle Jinks, Megan Richter

Learning Specialists: Jennifer Clarke, Rochelle Jinks

Intervention/Support/Wellbeing: Katrina Tozer, Aimee Jones

Specialist staff:

Greg Brown (Japanese), Mark Nunis (Music), Sione Quaass (Music), Katelyn Wait (Art), Amelia Thomas (Art), Molly Marshall (PE), Caitlin Budge (STEM), Nicole O'Brien (STEM), Amy Matthews (Library)

Education Support Staff:

Debbie Brown, Jane Burrows, Anne Campbell, Tracy Cant, Jo Charles, Rita Famcun, Melanie Horner, Ella Kearney, Emma Read, Sarah Rice, Mia Westmore, Abor Zathang

Office/Administration:

Shannon Young (Acting Principal), Jennifer Clarke (Acting Assistant Principal), Jennifer Humphris (Business Manager), Anna Hindson, Nina Stewart

Year Level Updates

Teaching teams are currently preparing information flyers for the year ahead. These flyers will provide families with important details, including year-level routines, homework/home reading, key events and dates, and expectations.

These will be distributed in Week 3.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews for all year levels will be held in Week 5, on Tuesday, 24th February and Wednesday, 25th February. These interviews are an opportunity for you to share with teachers any information you feel is relevant to support the setup of your child's school year. This may cover areas such as academics, well-being, and allied health. We look forward to having the opportunity to begin/continue building a strong relationship with you.

Booking details will be provided closer to the time.

Twilight Sports

Our Twilight Sports afternoon will be held on Thursday, 19th February. This is a wonderful event to have early in the year. Families are encouraged to arrive from 5 pm with a picnic dinner, with the sports activities running from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. The evening will provide an opportunity to mingle with other families in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Miss Marshall is planning several exciting activities.

Friday lunchtime icy pole sales have commenced. The cost remains 50c.

Camps

To assist with forward planning, I have included our 2025 camp dates below:

Year 3 Overnight Camp: Monday 19th October

Year 4 Camp: Monday 19th October to Wednesday 21st October

Year 5 Camp: Wednesday 19th August to Friday 21st August

Year 6 Camp: Monday 7th September to Wednesday 9th September

A message from Xavier Baker

In 2024, I had an accident that left me in a wheelchair. You will see me at school and at school events. Like everyone else, I enjoy spending time with my friends, chatting, and joining in games and activities. My memory can get a little muddled at times. Sometimes I might need a reminder of your name, but I would love you to stop and say hello.



Before and after school supervision

The school yard is supervised in the morning from 8:45 am - 9:00 am and afterschool from 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm, and students should not be at school before this time. Should you need care before or after school, please contact TheirCare at www.theircare.com.au

Toilets

Should parents or parents with non-school-age children need to use the toilet while on-site, there are toilets available up at the office and in the new building. Please refrain from using the student toilets.

Dogs

While we understand that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds. Thank you in advance for your support.

Shannon Young
Acting Principal

Foundation

What a Fantastic Start to 2026!

Our 2026 Foundation students have settled into school life with incredible bravery, enthusiasm and a genuine love of learning. They have already amazed us with their kindness towards one another and their teachers, as well as their positive *growth mindset* when tackling new challenges. We couldn't be prouder! A huge thank you to families for all the support you are providing at home to help your child transition into school — it truly is making a difference.



Students have loved exploring the Foundation playground and have shown wonderful kindness and cooperation during play. We also attended our very first whole-school assembly, where the Foundation students demonstrated excellent listening skills while Ms Young spoke. What a great achievement so early in the year!



Buddies

Over the past two weeks, our Year 5 buddies have joined us for playtimes, and it has been a joy to see these connections beginning to flourish. Both the Foundation and Year 5 students are growing in confidence as they play, communicate and learn together. A huge thank you to our amazing Year 5 students for taking our Foundation children under their wings and guiding them through school life so beautifully. We are looking forward to a fabulous year of learning, friendship and fun together!

Literacy

Word Work

This week we began exploring the letters Ss, Aa and Tt. Students have been learning the letter names, the sounds they make, and brainstorming words that start with each letter. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence.

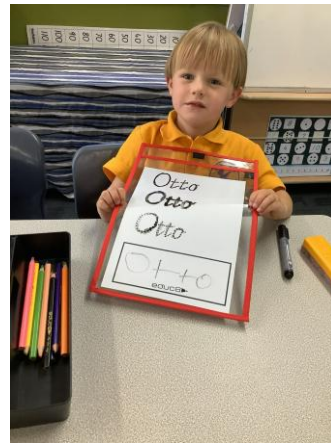


Reading

Students have enjoyed listening to stories such as *First Day* by Andrew Daddo and *Starting School* by Jane Godwin, which focus on beginning school and making new friends. These stories sparked some fabulous discussions as students shared their own experiences. We have also been enjoying the *Pete the Cat* books, which help us build resilience and remind us that mistakes are okay!

Writing

In our first weeks of school, we have focused on developing correct pencil grip, sitting posture and sharing our ideas. Students are practising forming letters correctly, with a focus on both capital and lowercase Ss and Aa. We are learning that words are made up of letters and that letter sounds can be matched to words. Students have shown great perseverance and a strong growth mindset when challenged — they should be very proud of themselves!



Maths

Numbers, numbers and more numbers! Students have been exploring numbers up to 10 and discovering the many ways numbers can be represented. We have recorded numbers on whiteboards, collected and drawn objects, and noticed numbers around our classroom. We have also begun exploring tens frames, number charts, tally marks, number words and number lines. Through lots of hands-on activities and rich discussions, students are developing a strong foundation in number concepts.



Wellbeing – Friendology!

We are busy making friends and learning how to be *friendship ninjas*! Through the URstrong program, students are developing skills to build healthy friendships and show respect for others. Each week we explore a new topic, practise friendship skills and reflect on our relationships.

If you'd like to learn more about the wellbeing learning we do at school, feel free to visit:

👉 <https://urstrong.com/>

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Foundation teachers will be offering parent/teacher interviews on the evenings of Monday, 24th and Tuesday, 25th February. A Compass notification will be sent shortly with details on how to book.

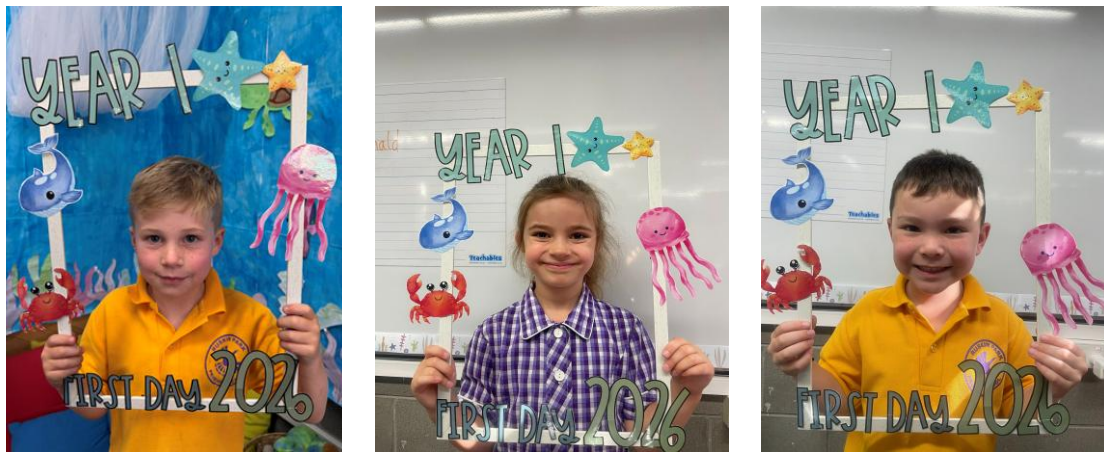
These interviews provide a valuable opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into school and to share any information that will support their start to school. We strongly encourage all families to attend. Students do not need to attend these interviews.

What a wonderful start to the year — we can't wait to see what the rest of 2026 brings! ☀️

Junior School

Year 1

Welcome to Year 1 for 2026! It has been so lovely to see the students arrive each morning with big smiles as they settle into their new classroom routines. Take a look at some of our superstars on their very first day!



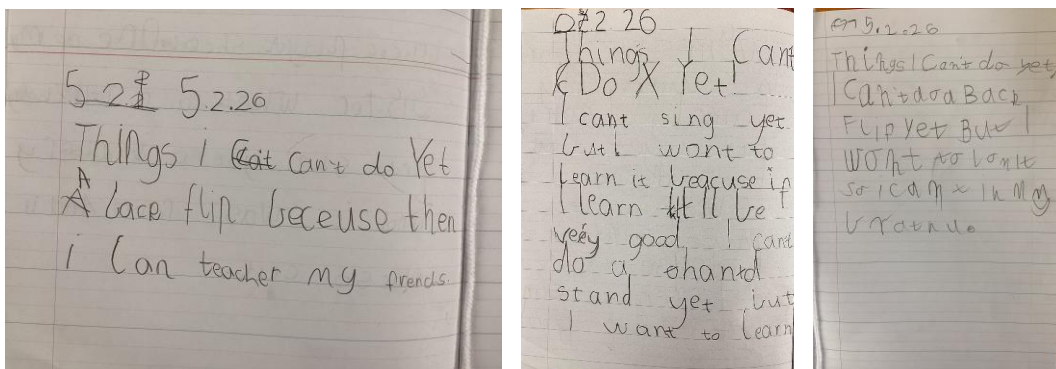
The students have done a wonderful job getting to know their teachers and classmates, learning new routines and giving everything a go. They should be very proud of the effort they have shown so far.

As communication between home and school is really important, please remember to regularly check Class Dojo and Compass for important updates and information.

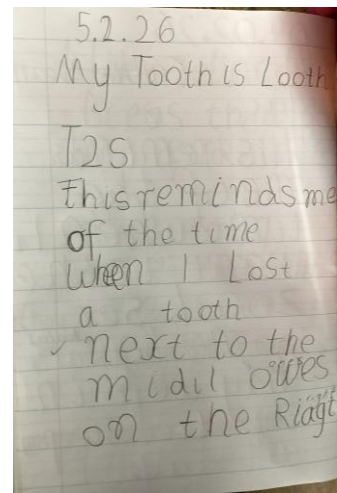
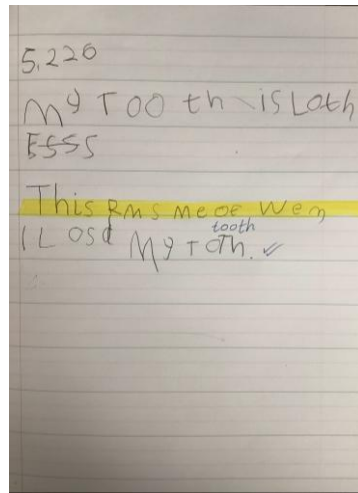
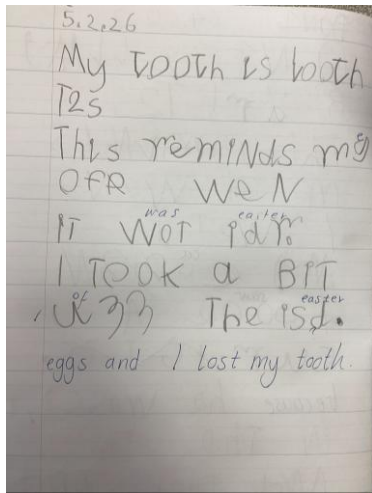
Literacy

At the beginning of Year 1, our focus is on introducing and establishing the Reader's and Writer's Workshop routines.

In Writing, students have been using their Writer's Notebooks to share ideas and create different pieces of writing, including recounts and free-choice writing. They especially enjoyed writing about things they love. Sharing their work during the Author's Chair has helped build confidence and encouraged kind and positive feedback from classmates.



In Reading, students are building independence and stamina by practising quiet, focused reading. We have been learning to make text-to-self connections and sharing them during class discussions. You can support this at home by chatting with your child about connections they make when reading their school readers or favourite books.



Maths

In Maths, we have been creating a positive and fun learning environment through engaging hands-on activities and games. Students have been practising taking turns, playing fairly and working together to solve problems.

The students have loved participating in a range of maths games, including *Get Out of My House*, where they added or subtracted to find answers and *Race to 30*, which involved using tens frames to make three sets of ten. Another favourite was *Roll or Flip to Find the Largest Number*. It has been great to see their enthusiasm and excitement during these activities. You may like to try some of these games at home to support their learning.



Wellbeing

This week, we focused on our school values, with a particular focus on respect. Students shared ideas on how they can show respect both in and out of the classroom and collaborated to create a respect poster.

We also talked about the importance of self-respect and celebrating what makes each student special. *The Power of Yet* is something we talk about often, and we love hearing students say, "I can't do this... yet!" as it helps develop a positive growth mindset. You might like to use *The Power of Yet* at home too!



Year 2

Wow! Our Year 2 students have settled back into school routines and expectations beautifully. We are so impressed with the positive attitude, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning we are seeing across all four Year 2 classes.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming Mini Boss incursion, 'Create It!' on 25th February. Students will have the opportunity to share their ideas and bring their visions to life through building, crafting, and designing. They will also be developing their teamwork skills along the way.

Please remember to provide your consent and payment via Compass. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Literacy

We have been very busy in Literacy, revisiting our Workshop Model for learning and thinking about how to show respect during our Reading and Writing sessions. Students have been exploring what respectful learning looks like, sounds like, and feels like at Ruskin Park.

We have also been discussing how students can support their own learning and how teachers can help them succeed. It has been wonderful to see everyone working together to create positive and engaging learning environments.

Phonics

Students are once again participating in the Phonics Plus program, where they work on their reading, spelling, and writing skills. So far, we have revisited their prior learning and are super impressed with their skills and knowledge.



Reading

In Reading, we have been revising the different parts of the Reader's Workshop and practising how to be a great reader. We are building stamina by staying in our seats and choosing books we can read for longer periods. We have been learning how to show respect to our teacher and peers during Reading sessions.

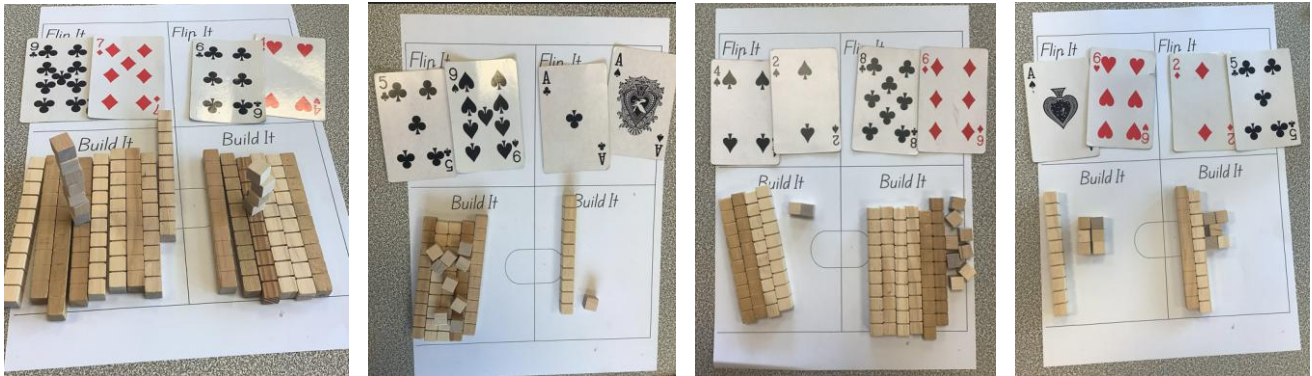
Take home readers have gone home this week. Please ensure that they are returned to school each day, along with the yellow reading log, so that readers can be changed. Even if your student has not finished the book, please return it so class teachers can monitor their progress.

Writing

In Writing, we have been looking at what good writers do and revising the Writer's Workshop model. Students have been learning to set up their books, using their red pencil to write the date and title and to rule their own margins. Students have been writing a range of free choice texts and practising what good writers do: writing on the lines, using capital letters and boundary punctuation, and thinking about their spelling. They have been building stamina to write for longer periods. In Year 2, we have a strong focus on handwriting, forming letters from the correct starting points and improving consistency in letter sizing and spacing. We are practising handwriting, starting with the 'i' family letters: l, i, t, and j.

Maths

In Maths, we have been playing lots of place value games and learning to collaborate with our peers. Students have been exploring what it means to be a mathematician and what Maths is like in Year 2. Students have enjoyed playing 'Sequence' and 'Flip It Build It' in partners and small groups. Students are building their capacity to think deeply about Maths and persevere during challenging learning tasks.



Wellbeing

We have begun the year by revising the school values with a focus on how we can show respect at school. We have been discussing how showing respect to others can help them to thrive and what respect looks like in different learning areas.



Middle School

Year 3

It has been wonderful to see the Year 3s settle into the new school year with such enthusiasm and respect. They have returned with positive attitudes, a willingness to learn, and a real sense of excitement about the year ahead. Students have been getting to know their new routines, classmates, and learning expectations. We are incredibly proud of the way they have approached new challenges and supported one another. This year, we look forward to seeing your children grow in confidence and independence, and to supporting your children's learning and well-being throughout the year.



Reading

In Reading, we have begun the year by revisiting the structure and purpose of Reader's Workshop to help students use their time effectively throughout the year. Year Three students have been practising respectful listening during mini-lessons and building their reading stamina by reading quietly during independent reading time. They have also been learning how to choose a just right book for their book boxes—books they enjoy, find interesting, and feel appropriately challenged by. To support and inspire others, students designed a book cover for their favourite book to help classmates discover a new book to enjoy.

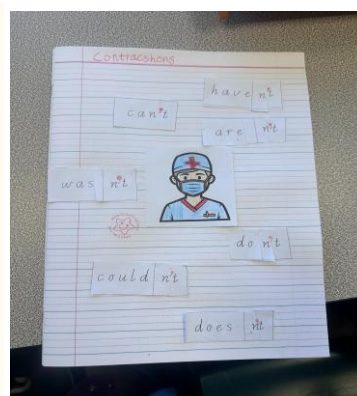
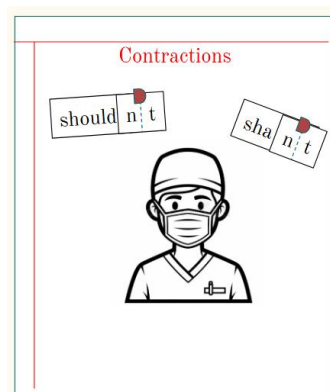


Writing

Year Three students have been learning about the structure and purpose of the Writer's Workshop and revisiting what good writers do to share their ideas clearly. They have learned to set up their writing books correctly by ruling margins and including the date and title. Students have also been reminded to use SWAG in their writing: Sizzling start, Writes neatly, Awesome adjectives, nouns, and verbs, and Great endings, using punctuation and capitalisation. To inspire their writing, students created a heart map in their Writer's Notebook, highlighting things they love and care about.

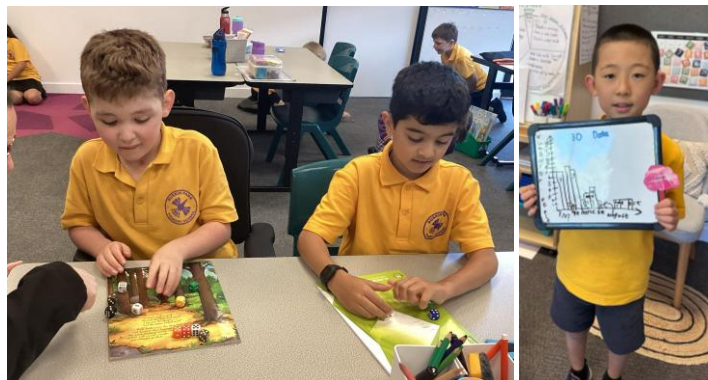
Spelling

In Spelling, students have begun learning about contractions and how words can be shortened by replacing missing letters with apostrophes. They have enjoyed exploring this concept through a range of activities, including dictation and a cut-and-paste surgeon activity.



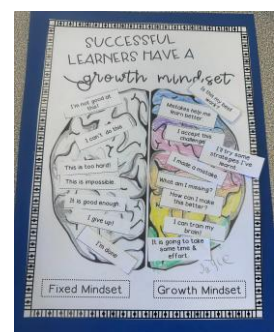
Maths

We have begun the year by building a positive maths culture in our classrooms, exploring what it means to be a mathematician through engaging maths games such as 'Get Out Of My House'. This week, Year Three students collected data on their classmates, including age, family size, favourite fruit or vegetable, and birth month. They then presented their findings using a bar graph and table and practised explaining the data.



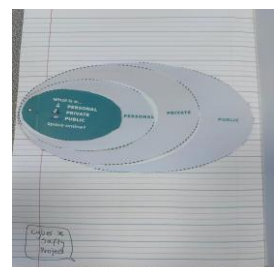
Wellbeing

Students have been learning about the difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. They explored how developing a growth mindset helps them stay positive, persist through challenges, and achieve their goals. Students practised adding the word 'yet' to their thinking to encourage perseverance and learned that mistakes are a natural part of learning. They also sorted statements into fixed and growth mindset categories and created a brain illustration, with the growth mindset side decorated in bright colours to represent positive and flexible thinking.



Digitech

In Digital Technologies, students have been learning about the differences between personal (solo), private (shared), and public (open) online spaces, and how to behave responsibly in each. To support their understanding, students created a *Personal, Private, Public* spinner to identify examples of websites, apps, or platforms that fit each type of online space.



Year 4

We want to congratulate our Year 4 students on a fantastic start to the school year! We have been incredibly impressed by how smoothly they have settled into Year 4 and by their embrace of new routines and expectations. After the holiday break, the students returned enthusiastic, motivated, and ready to challenge themselves in their learning. It has been a joy to see their positive attitudes and growing confidence already shining through. We are so excited about the year ahead and all that we will achieve together. Well done, Year 4, we know it's going to be a brilliant year!

Literacy

In Literacy, we have been revisiting the Reading and Writing Workshop models, focusing on the roles of both students and teachers while establishing daily routines for our sessions.

In Reading, students have been revisiting the enchanting world of fairy tales through our class mentor text, *The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer. This thoughtfully crafted novel follows the journey of the Bailey twins and their shared love of fairy tales, capturing students' interest as familiar stories are creatively woven together. Year 4 students have enjoyed exploring the author's techniques and discussing how he engages his readers. Alongside this text, students have been learning about a range of genres and identifying key features to classify different types of texts. They have also set up their reading boxes, carefully selecting 'just right' fiction and nonfiction books that reflect their interests and support the continued development of a love of reading.



During Writing sessions, students have been using their Writer's Notebooks to gather ideas, reflect on a variety of writing topics and genres, and brainstorm ways to develop their own pieces. They have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their writing skills through choice writing tasks, where they are encouraged to take ownership of their work. A strong emphasis has been placed on using interesting and descriptive vocabulary to enhance their writing and engage readers.



Numeracy

In Numeracy, students have been engaging in a variety of purposeful tasks that build number fluency and deepen their understanding of mathematics. They have been supported in approaching tasks with curiosity, exploring alternative strategies, and asking thoughtful questions. We have been fostering a growth mindset by providing opportunities for students to collaborate in pairs and small groups, share their thinking, and learn from one another. A strong focus has been placed on refining place value skills through interactive games such as Wishball and Place Value Knockout, which encourage both accuracy and enjoyment. It has been wonderful to see students' confidence grow as they recognise that mathematical problems can be solved in many ways.



Wellbeing

In Wellbeing, students have been working closely with their teacher to build a supportive and positive classroom environment. Together, we have revisited our School Values—Respect, Honesty, Resilience, and Persistence—and explored how these values help create a learning space where everyone can thrive. As part of this process, students contributed to the development of a classroom agreement that outlines shared expectations and supports a successful year for all.

Students have begun reflecting on the personal goals they aim to achieve in 2026 and are approaching their learning with a growth mindset. Many students are particularly motivated to earn their pen licence, with some already close to achieving this milestone.



To further strengthen our classroom community, students have participated in a range of teamwork and sportsmanship activities, developing collaboration skills and building positive relationships with their peers.



Senior School

Year 5

Welcome to Year 5, and what a fantastic start to the year it has been! The Year 5 students have impressed us with how quickly they are settling back into the school's rhythm and routine. They have been displaying a positive attitude and growth mindset towards their learning and new experiences. We are looking forward to a fantastic year together!

Buddies

A highlight of the first two weeks has definitely been spending time with our Buddies!

We have visited our Foundation Buddies twice and played with them outside. It has been wonderful to see our Year 5s display kindness, patience and act as role models for the younger Foundation students. We're looking forward to these special bonds growing through our many hangouts this year!

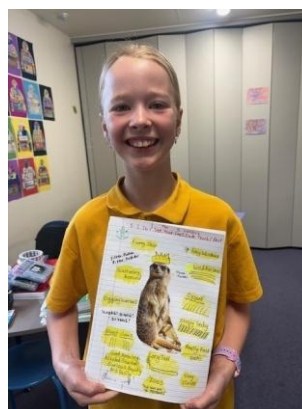


Literacy

Students have been working on strengthening their independence as readers and writers. We have revised the Readers Workshop and Writer's Workshop models and completed self-reflections to help determine our upcoming reading and writing goals.

In Writing, we have created Writer's Notebook pages to inspire our students to write engaging pieces. We have created pages on all the places we would like to travel around the world, and we have described different animals using the five senses, along with the challenge of writing stories using only 100 words!

In Reading, we have been building a bank of 'just right' texts in students' book boxes and using our sticky notes to record and expand our thinking while reading. Students have also begun writing book reviews, displaying them around the classroom for their peers to read.

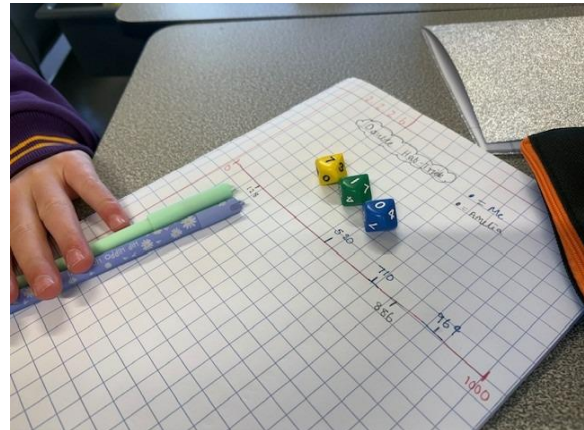


Maths

The first week back at school saw us participating in Maths activities focused on data collection and estimation, with a strong emphasis on collaboration. We dove into revising the four processes in our second week, with plenty of class discussions on the different ideas and strategies we can apply when working on Maths equations.

The students have enjoyed participating in activities such as *Subtraction Bingo* and an addition game called *100 Laughs*.

We are all working together to build confidence and enjoyment in Maths as we explore familiar concepts through different approaches.

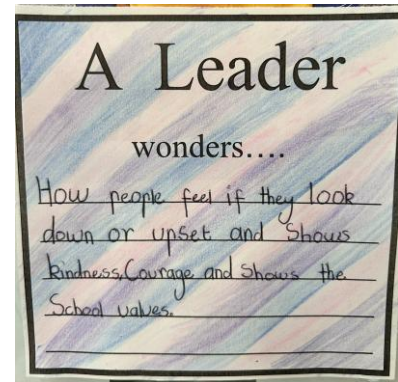
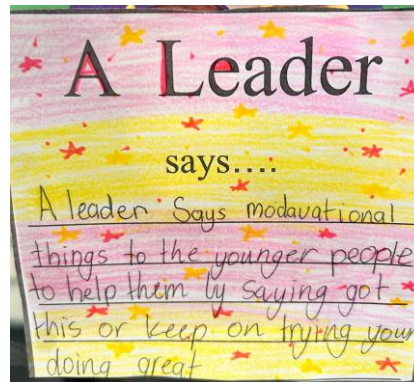
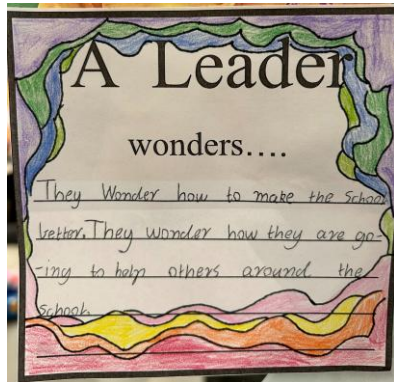
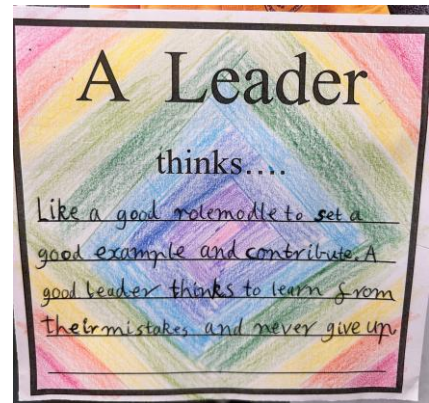
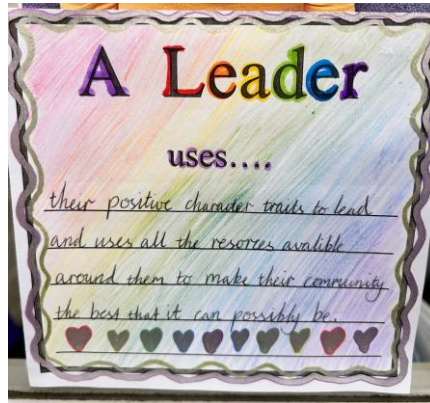


Civics and Citizenship

Students have enjoyed our first Civics and Citizenship lesson of the year. We began by discussing the different flags of Australia and how our flag was created. The Year 5s have been challenged to design their own flag that is more inclusive of all Australians. We have seen designs featuring kangaroos, boomerangs, wattle, and even Tim Tams!

Year 6

Congratulations to our Year Six students who have commenced their final year of primary school with enthusiasm and leadership. We have been impressed by their ability to quickly settle into tasks and their willingness to learn and work as a team. We have set a high bar for our school leaders and outlined expectations for the year. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and activities, both in and out of the classroom.



Literacy

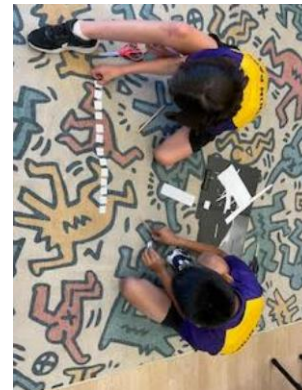
We have started the year by revising and refining students' skills in the Reader's and Writer's Workshops. In Reading, students have selected appropriate 'just right' texts that challenge their thinking, reflected on their strengths and areas for improvement using a reading survey, and begun revising their reading comprehension strategies. During independent reading time, students have been encouraged to perform 'stop and jots' and record their thinking about their reading. Teachers have modelled what is expected in Year Six and we look forward to developing students' comprehension skills and their ability to analyse and write about their reading. At home, we encourage you to ask your children what they're reading and to have them explain the plot, characters, and any themes in the book.

In Writing, students have developed their ideas by creating Writer's Notebook entries to inspire and extend their writing. With teacher guidance and modelling, students have created an entry about writing ideas based on their interests and another entry about their name. Students can refer to these entries throughout the year, and they are an important part of the writing process. Students have also reflected on their strengths and areas for growth as writers. These will help form their first writing goal for the year.



Maths

Maths is off to a fantastic start in Year 6, with students demonstrating a strong *can-do* attitude and enthusiasm for all learning experiences. They have been revising key concepts through engaging card and dice games, while also building connections by collecting and analysing data based on their interests and fun personal facts. Students have also been sharing what helps them learn best and exploring strategies they can use when they feel stuck, setting a positive foundation for confident and resilient mathematicians.



Humanities, Digi Tech and Wellbeing

This term in Humanities, students will learn about democracy and the Australian system of government. Later in the term, we will have an incursion from the Victorian Parliament, where students will participate in a mock parliament and pass a bill.

In Digi Tech, students are revising the expectations of using digital technologies responsibly. This includes using school laptops and iPads, as well as the online and offline platforms used at school.

In Wellbeing, the focus has been on building our class community and on reflecting on and unpacking the school values. Students have participated in activities that help them get to know one another, reflect on their strengths and challenges, and discuss strategies to foster a positive classroom environment.

Physical Education

Welcome back, everyone! I look forward to a jam-packed 2026, filled with opportunities for students of all ages and abilities to participate in sports and have fun. Please keep an eye on our fortnightly newsletter and Class Dojo for details and highlights!

Parent Helpers

Previously, we had an incredible number of helpers who consistently went above and beyond at events, demonstrating initiative and ensuring every event ran smoothly. If you can assist with any of the events throughout the year, please reach out on Class Dojo or email me at molly.marshall@education.vic.gov.au. No experience in the sport is required; we just need assistance getting teams to the correct courts/fields on time. However, if you have a strength in a particular sport, we would love the extra help!

2025 Year 3-6 Montrose District Swimming Competition

On Friday 20th of February, in Week 4, we will send a Year 3-6 team to represent Ruskin Park at the Montrose District Swimming Carnival. This is a competitive event, so students must be able to swim confidently in a 50m outdoor pool whilst performing their chosen stroke correctly. Races include freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and relays. Please note that this is not a 'come and try' day. Parents/Guardians will need to transport their child to and from the event, held at the Lilydale Outdoor Pool. If your child has experience swimming and would like to compete, or if you have any questions, please email me at: molly.marshall@education.vic.gov.au, and I will send you more information.

Year 3-6 Hooptime

Students in Years 3-6 have the option to sign up for Basketball Victoria's Hooptime competition. Sign-up sheets are located next to Miss Marshall's office, inside the gym foyer and will be taken down in Week 4. Training and tryouts will take place during lunchtimes, and dates will be confirmed once sign-ups are complete. Students will be placed in one of three divisions outlined below:

All Stars Girls and Boys: Any child who plays representative basketball at VJL5 or above must play in this division. Teams that finish 1st on the day will progress to the region competition.

Future Stars Mixed and Girls - any child who plays in a domestic league or representative VJL6 and below plays in this division, but can also play in All Stars. Teams that finish 1st on the day will progress to the region competition.

Rookies Mixed - this is the beginners' division, where referees will provide more support and leniency.

Year 5/6 Interschool Summer Sport

On Tuesday, March 24th, our Year 5 and 6 students will participate in softball, volleyball, cricket and hot shots tennis. They will compete against other schools in the Montrose District in friendly competition. The upcoming Compass event will hold more information. Please reach out if you can assist with your child's team on this day.

F - 6 Ruskin Park Athletics Carnival

On Thursday, 26th March, our whole school will head to Morrisons Reserve in Mount Evelyn to participate in the athletics carnival. Please keep an eye out for the Compass event and Whole School Class Dojo stories for more information. If you can assist on the day with your child's class/group, please reach out.

F-6 Cross Country

Early in Term 2 on Tuesday, the 28th of April, all Ruskin Park students will participate in the House Cross Country competition. Students in Foundation to Year 2 will run around the school's oval, and students in Years 3-6 will run around the surrounding streets. Please complete your child's walking excursion permission on Compass before the event.

We need lots of helpers to stand around the track, guiding students. I will always put you on the track in a position where you can see your child/children run. Please make contact if you can help on this day between 11:15 am and 1:00 pm.

2026 Physical Education Dates:

Term 1

Week 4 Thursday, 19th February - RPPS Twilight Sports
Week 4 Friday, 20th February - Year 3-6 District Swimming
Week 6 Monday, 2nd March - Year 3-6 Division Swimming
Week 9 Tuesday, 24th March - Year 5/6 Summer Sports
Week 9 Thursday, 26th March - RPPS Athletics Carnival

Term 2

Week 2 Tuesday, 28th April - RPPS Cross Country
Week 3 Friday, 8th May - *RPPS Athletics backup date in case of bad weather in Term 1*
Week 4 Friday, 15th May - Year 3-6 District Cross Country
Week 7 Tuesday, 2nd June - Year 3-6 Division Cross Country
Week 8 Thursday, 11th June - Year 3-6 Region Cross Country
Week 8 Friday, 12th June - Year 5/6 Interschool Winter Sport
Year 3-6 Hoop Time dates TBC

Term 3

Week 5 10th - 14th August - Year 4-6 Swimming Program @ Aquahub
Week 6 Friday, 21st August - Year 3-6 District Athletics
Week 8 31st August - 4th September F-3 Swimming Program @ Aquahub

Term 4

Week 1 Thursday, 8th October - Year 3-6 Division Athletics

Week 3 Thursday, 22nd October - Year 3-6 Region Athletics

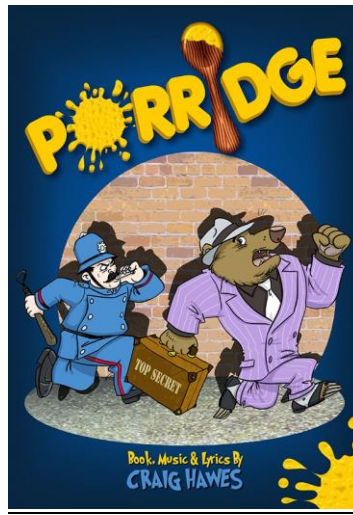
Week 6 Friday, 13th November - Year 5/6 Interschool Fun Sports

Molly Marshall

Physical Education Teacher

MUSIC

Production



We have a very exciting and busy term ahead in the Music Department as we continue preparations for our 2026 production, *Porridge*. Auditions for the main cast were held last year for students in Years 5 and 6, and these students have been working enthusiastically to learn their lines and develop their stage skills.

All students in Years 3 to 6 will be involved in the production, performing a class song and working closely with dance teacher Karen Ogilvy to learn choreography for their class items. We look forward to sharing more information about ticketing and costumes in the coming weeks.

Porridge will be performed at **The Round Theatre, Nunawading**, on **Monday, 4th May and Tuesday, 5th May**. We hope our school community will join us in supporting our talented students.

Choir

Choir will be resuming on Thursday lunchtimes for students in Years 1 to 6. Throughout the term, students will enjoy learning and performing a wide range of songs while developing their vocal skills, teamwork, and performance confidence.

The choir will continue to sing the National Anthem at our fortnightly assemblies, and their first major performance for the year will be at the ANZAC Day service at Croydon RSL. Further details about this performance will be shared with families later in the term.

Foundation

Foundations students have had an excellent start to music at Ruskin Park. The beginning of the term will focus on expectations in the music room, safe instrument play, and learning about a steady beat. We will be playing various drums, using drumsticks, body percussion, and a variety of movement activities. As the term progresses, we will learn about some different rhythm notes and using a speaking and singing voice.



Year 1

We have had a strong start to the year and look forward to developing our ukulele and percussion skills this term. We will also do some drama activities, practising using our faces and using movement to communicate with each other. We will also continue learning about note values and other musical symbols.

Year 2

Year 2 students have had an excellent start to music this year. We have started the year revising steady beat, our beat values and rhythm notes. We will begin the term by playing the bucket drum to focus on technique, then move on to djembes, singing technique, pitch matching, and xylophones.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

It is a busy and exciting start to the year for students in Years 3-6. Our focus this term will be on learning the dance steps and lyrics for production class items. We will learn about projecting our voices and engaging the audience, and the process of performing at a professional theatre.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS AT RUSKIN!

We have a wonderful instrumental program here at Ruskin run by Creative Music. If you are interested in continuing or starting to learn an instrument, please visit the school office to pick up an enrolment form to sign.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These Students have recently celebrated their birthdays

Ella	Rylee	Amelia	Raahil	Saarth	Jack G	Dalia	Riana	Dylan
Neal	Lily	Ruby	Harvey	Catherine	Elliot	Alice	Lydia N	Luca
Zac	Hazel	Samuel	Eleanor	Sebastian	Theodore	Sophia	Isobel	Ashvik
Felix	Jaxon	Ted	Elodie	Ari	Lydia Z	Lachie	Olivia	Zayden
Jack K	Dylan	Roy	Sahas	Leon				

School Vision

Every student at Ruskin Park Primary School is encouraged to develop their natural curiosity and imagination through new and engaging approaches to teaching. We believe a positive attitude toward learning in a friendly community promotes success today, tomorrow and into the future.

Our values are:

Respect

Honesty

Persistence

Resilience

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School Ref ID

Applicant details

Surname	
First Name	
Address	
Town/Suburb	
State and Postcode	
Contact Number	

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - -

OR Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)* **OR** Special Consideration**

*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

**Out of Home Care applications must include a letter of support from the institution facilitating the arrangement (for example, Mackillop Family Services or the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)) as evidence of the arrangement and must be no more than 18 months old).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

Declaration

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders. I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____/____/202__

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund eligibility

Applications must be submitted to the school as soon as possible and no later than the end of Term 2.

Where a school or family is unsure if the concession card is eligible, they are encouraged to submit the application into the CSEF system for validation.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

Those who are eligible to apply for the CSEF **must meet both** of the following two criteria or be eligible for special consideration.

Eligible means-tested cards

Only financially means-tested cards are eligible.

Eligibility date

Eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (refer to the department's policy, [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\)](#)), on either the first student day of Term 1 or Term 2.

Criterion 1 – General eligibility

The applicant must be one of the following:

- a parent or carer who is the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card
- a student over 16 years who is considered a mature minor and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card). Applicant to use the 16 and over application form. For guidance on assessing whether a student is a mature minor, refer to the department's policy on [Mature Minors and Decision Making](#)
- a parent or carer whose child is 16 or over and the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card but are not considered a mature minor. Applicant to use the 16 and over parent consent form.

For students over 16 years of age and where the eligible card is in the name of the student, the fund is only granted to that student, not their siblings.

Criterion 2 – Be of school age and attend a Victorian school

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a registered Victorian school. CSEF is not payable to a student attending pre-school, kindergarten, TAFE or who are home schooled.

Special Consideration

A special consideration eligibility category exists to assist families and students in certain circumstances. Applications should be made through this application form. For more information, refer to: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility](#).

Payment amounts

The CSEF is an annual payment paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the department's policy for the current rates and more information, [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts](#).

How to complete the application form

Note: all sections must be completed by the applicant.

1. Complete the APPLICANT DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible and no later than the end of Term 2.

Privacy Statement

The Department of Education is committed to protecting your privacy. All information collected will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). This personal information is collected to assess your eligibility to receive a CSEF payment. Your data is securely managed and only shared with Centrelink and DFFH when necessary for business operations or legal compliance. By submitting this form, you consent to our data practices. For more information regarding correction to your personal information or the handling of personal information please email csfef@education.vic.gov.au. For more information about the departments privacy policy, please visit: [Schools' privacy policy | vic.gov.au](#)

MORNING MOVERS MORNING GROOVERS

Thursday & Friday 8.35am

2026

Hi, I'm Mel

I'm the creator and facilitator of Morning Movers – a Ruskin mum, PE teacher and youth life coach. I started Morning Movers four years ago, as an opportunity to train for cross country. Since then it has grown into an valued school program and movement initiative.

Our mission

To create a community where people can be active, feel good in their bodies and recognise their potential. We believe everyone is capable of greatness and often it starts with the courage to try something new. Our program aims to support young people to build fitness, confidence and connection. It's simply about starting the day feeling awake, connected and good in your body.

What is Morning Movers & Groovers?

A movement community that encourages everyone to move and groove and stay healthy. Run, walk, dance or groove in a fun, relaxed way to move your body before the day begins. There's no pressure and no expectations – just show up and be active in a way that feels right for you. We provide everyone with an activity passport and an opportunity to earn certificates, medals and trophies for travelling certain distances.

**Everyone is welcome...including parents!
All abilities. All energy levels. All moods.
Come as you are. Move how you want.**



MEET YOUR CAPTAINS EDEN & SOPHIE

Our amazing captains help bring the energy, encouragement, and good vibes. They're here to support, motivate, and make sure everyone feels welcome.



Learn music

here at school

Give Your Child the Gift of Music

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, trumpet, here at Ruskin Park Primary School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2026.

Interested parents should call Karen during office hours on 9818 2333 or email karen@creativemusic.com.au



www.creativemusic.com.au





ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE

nab AFL Auskick

GOOD CLEAN FUN

[PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK](https://play.afl.com.au/auskick)

**AUSKICK REGISTRATIONS FOR 2026
ARE NOW OPEN!**



AFL PLAY