Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 28th January 2026

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday 30th January	Return School Council Questionnaire
10th February	Swimming
12th February	Swimming
17th February	Swimming
19th February	Swimming
Tuesday 24th February	School Council Meeting – 4.30pm

We acknowledge the traditional Owners of the land on which we stand and pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.
We honour and respect the histories, cultures, knowledge and perspectives of First Nations peoples
We value the guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we support and create opportunities for the future custodians- the children
Let us always remember that First Nation children played, danced, sang and learned on this place they called home

WELCOME Hello Strathewen families and welcome back for Term 1. My name is Jane McLeod and I am 'holding the fort' while Jane Hayward is on leave for Semester 1. I have had several meetings with the wonderful staff since my appointment at the end of 2025 and I have spent some time getting to know the school and various aspects of its operations. I know Jane will be much-missed during her absence, and she is an impossible act to follow, but I will do my best to honour her work and the culture that has been established here at Strathewen Primary School. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you this morning, and look forward to meeting and getting to know all families over the coming days and weeks. I have already been getting to know our students as they settled back into school today. We've had a fantastic first day, with some very keen learners getting straight back into the swing of things and ready to go. We did have to work offsite at Diamond Valley College yesterday, due to the Extreme Fire Danger Rating, but thanks to principal Samuel Luck and his magnificent team, we were able to work very effectively in their staffroom. I hope you were all able to stay out of yesterday's heat too! As always, Term 1 offers a number of highlights with the swimming program, tennis lessons, the commencement of programs such as Songroom with Dan, Art with Mrs Galvin, Italian/Music with Ms Emselle (Welcome back from family leave!), the famous and much-loved Egg and Spoon Race, School Council elections and parent/teacher meetings!

SWIMMING We have a very busy term ahead, with the swimming program kicking off on Tuesday 10th February (Week 3) and taking place at the Eltham Leisure Centre each Tuesday and Thursday morning for three weeks. Parent information and permission forms for our upcoming swimming program will be sent home by the end of this week. The lessons, with specialist coaches at the Eltham Leisure Centre, will run over six days. We'll be travelling by bus from school, leaving just after 9.30am and returning to school before lunch. Please check with a staff member if you have any questions about our intensive swimming program. The Victorian Curriculum for Physical Education aims for all students to be able to confidently swim 50m by the end of Year 6 and by offering a school-wide program each year, this is what we work towards. The sessions will also feature a water safety and water rescue component. Our swimming program is heavily subsidised with funding specifically for swimming education through the Education Department, with parents only required to pay for the bus travel cost.

MUSIC Dan is back with us again from Monday 2nd February, to kick off the Song Room program for Semester 1.

Jane

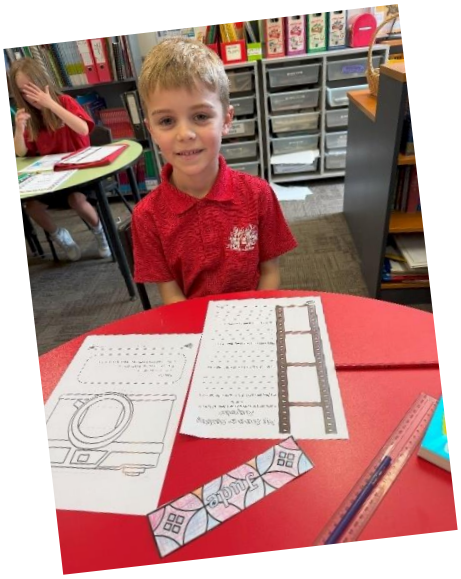
A call for nominations for the next School Council will be posted by Friday 6th February. I encourage all members of the parent community to become involved with our school in whatever way may suit your availability and skills and the School Council is a great way to do this! You'll be part of decision-making and see how the school runs. Please be aware that the Department of Education's Ministerial Order 1280 requires all **new** school council members to have a Working With Children Check, either attained through volunteer work or employment. A questionnaire has been sent home today, asking which days and times are most suitable for anyone wishing to nominate for a position. Currently School Council meetings are held on Tuesdays at 4:30pm at the school. As per the Governance requirements, School Council meetings are held 8 times per year, twice per term.

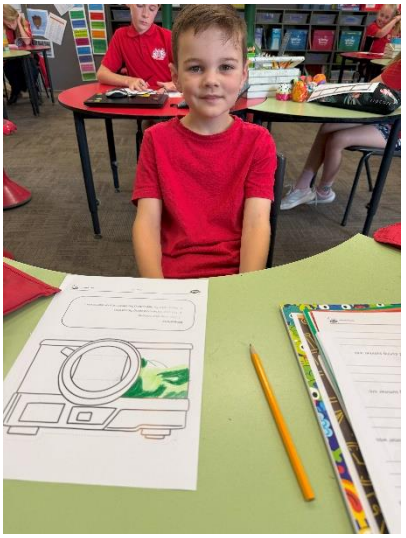
Behind the Scenes:

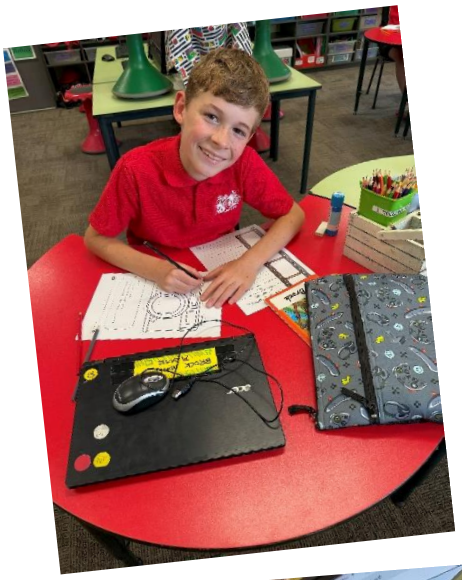
- Septic tank was serviced
- Darren and Daz continued to work on the new cubby house.
- Morgans Tree Service cleared the school grounds for bushfire preparedness compliance

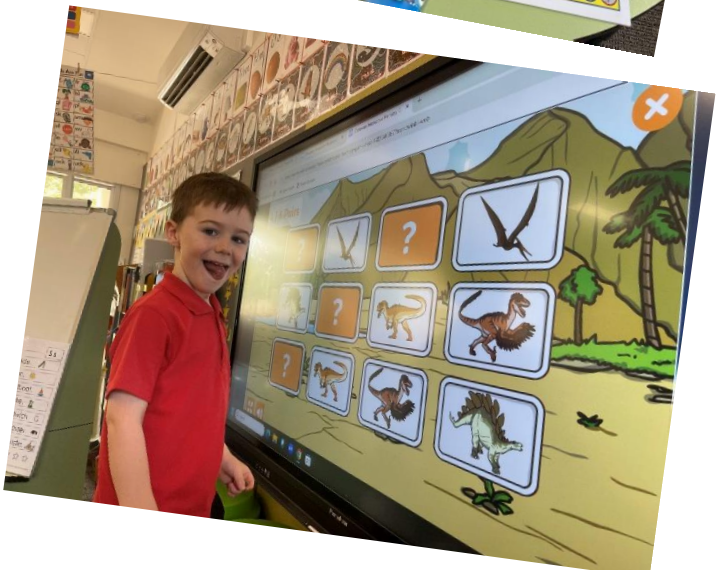
CHILD SAFE: *Strathewen Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families. We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students. We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our environments. Child safety is a shared responsibility.*

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL









Child safety and wellbeing at Strathewen Primary School: information for families and the school community

Strathewen Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework includes policies, codes and procedures that explain how we support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and protect them from harm. These documents are available on our website: http://strathewenps.vic.edu.au/

We are also committed to continuous improvement of our child safety framework. We are currently reviewing our child safety policies and practices to ensure they are up-to-date and effective.

Our students and families are important partners in this process. We welcome your feedback or ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Jane Hayward, our school principal on 9714 8278.

STRATHEWEN LANDCARE MEMBERS ONLY

Log Splitter available for hire!
Borrowing donation: $20
Pick up Strathewen
Questions and bookings can be made via emailing **enquiries@strathewenlandcare.org.au**

👉Not a member - Join NOW!! by clicking on the following link - **https://www.nillumbiklandcare.org/strathmember**