

Term 1:
Week 2 - 6th February 2026

What's Happening at RPS

Rutherglen Primary School
Newsletter



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday 9th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 10th March

Curriculum Day



ZOOPER DOOPERS

Every Thursday
\$1

Student arrival time
at school no earlier
than 8:30am

Staff supervision
starts at 8:40am



School success starts
with attendance

School Council Elections

School Council Elections open Tuesday 10th Feb. There are 8 parent and 1 Department of Education employee positions vacant. Please consider becoming a part of our School Council with further information about this within this newsletter. Nomination forms are available from the Office or as sent out via Compass.

2026 Student Leaders

Our Student Leaders of 2026 were presented with their leadership badges at Assembly on Friday, with our School Captains leading their first Assembly of the year and doing a fabulous. Meet all of our leaders in this newsletter. We wish them all the best as they represent their fellow students and our school as they carry out their role in a variety of ways across the year.

Check and Update Your Contact Details for 2026

A large white envelope is being sent home to every family this coming week with their child's enrolment details. We ask that you check all of the information for your child/ren to ensure that this information is accurate and up-to-date, particularly phone numbers, email and emergency contacts details. Please write any changes on the forms within the envelope and return to the Office. Please note that any person who is not listed on your child's enrolment as an emergency contact is unable to collect your child from school during school hours, this includes relatives. **Please return these forms even if no changes have been made.**

BEING AT SCHOOL IS COOL

Why Attendance Matters - when your child misses school, they miss opportunities to



Learn & Experience New Things &
Strengthen Understandings



Build Connections



Develop Life Skills

2026 CALENDAR

TERM 1 - Wed 28th January - Thursday 2nd April

Tues 10th Feb	School Council Meeting 6:30pm
Wed 18th Feb	Rotary Dinner catering
Fri 20th Feb	Assembly 2:45pm in BER
Wed 25th Feb	Hume Region Bowls - Rutherglen - Year 5-6
Fri 27th Feb	Clean Up Australia Day - for schools
Wed 4th March	O&M Division Swimming Wangaratta
Fri 6th March	Assembly 2:45pm In BER
Mon 9th March	Labour Day Public Holiday - students do not attend school
Tues 10th March	Curriculum Day - students do not attend school + School Council Meeting 6:30pm
Fri 20th March	Assembly 2:45pm In BER
Tues 24th March	F-2 Learning Celebration
Wed 1st April	Rotary Dinner Catering
Thurs 2nd April	Easter Parade and Raffle draw - 1:30pm in BRS + Last day of Term 1 - 2:30pm finish

TERM 2 - Tues 20th April - Fri 26th June

Fri 24th April	Assembly 2:45pm in BER
Thurs 30th April	Cross Country
Wed 6th May	Rotary Dinner catering
Fri 8th May	Assembly 2:45pm in BER
Fri 8th May	Mother's Day Stall + Assembly 2:45pm
Thurs 21st May	School Photos
Fri 22nd May	Assembly 2:45pm in BER
Tues 26th / Wed 27th May	Parent/ Carer Teacher Conferences
Wed 3rd June	OM Cross Country Wangaratta
Fri 5th June	Assembly 2:45pm
Mon 8th June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tues 9th June	Curriculum Day
Fri 12th June	Hume Region Cross Country - Benalla
Fri 19th June	Assembly 2:45pm
Wed 24th June	Winter Sports Day - Wangaratta
Thurs 25th June	F-2 Learning Celebration
Fri 26th June	Last Day of Term 2 - 2:30pm finish

TERM 3 - Mon 13th July - Fri 18th Sept

Tues 14th July	French Celebration Day + Mime Performance
Fri 24th July	Assembly
Fri 31st July	School DISCO - K-2 (5pm-6pm) & 3-6 (6:15-7:30pm)
Fri 7th August	Assembly
Fri 14th August	Hockey 7's Shepparton
Mon 17th August	Science week
Fri 21st August	Assembly
Mon 24th August	Book Week Parade 9:10am in BRS
Fri 4th Sept	Father's Day Stall + Assembly
Wed 9th & Thurs 10th	School Production - TBC
Tues 15th Sept	Athletics Day
Thurs 17th Sept	F-2 Learning Celebration
Fri 18th Sept	Assembly 1:30pm + Last Day of Term 3- 2:30pm finish

TERM 4 - Mon 6th Oct - Fri 18th Dec

Fri 16th Oct	Assembly
Wed 28th Oct	Tennis Hot Shots
Fri 30th Oct	Assembly
Mon 2nd Nov	Curriculum Day - Report Writing
Tues 3rd Nov	Melbourne Cup public holiday
Fri 13th Nov	Assembly
Tues 17th Nov	Transition Day 1 - Foundation 2027
Fri 20th Nov	Assembly
Tues 24th Nov	Transition Day 2 - Foundation 2027
Thurs 26th Nov	Year 2 Sleepover
Tues 1st Dec	Transition Day 3 - Foundation 2027 - Year 5
Mon 7th Dec	Transition Day for year 6s attending Rutherglen HS
Tues 8th Dec	State-wide Transition for all students - full day
Thurs 10th Dec	F-2 Learning Celebration
Mon 14th Dec	Year 6 Graduation
Tues 15th Dec	Year 6 Celebration Day
Wed 16th Dec	Presentation Assembly
Thurs 17th Dec	Pool Party
Fri 18th Dec	Year 6 Parade Out + Last Day of 2026 - 1pm finish

Respect

Responsibility

Integrity

Empathy

RPS Values Awards acknowledges students who display our school values and expectations by the choices they make in their daily actions - Weeks 1 & 2

Foundation

Marlon Congdon - for showing great respect in learning space. The way you sit on the mat, use your table space and show kindness to others is fantastic. Amazing Marlon!

Owen Lind - for showing respect to your teachers and classroom peers. Thank you for listening carefully, using kind words, following instructions and helping others. Fantastic Owen!

Year 1-2

Max Roberts - for your great attitude to learning. It has been wonderful to see you ready to learn in every lesson; you have been organised with your resources, showing great listening skills during instruction and sharing some great ideas with the class. Well done, Max, keep up the great work!

1/2B - for the amazing start you have all made to the year. You have been super organised each and every day and have demonstrated all of our school values. A fabulous start, kiddos!

Jay Seymour - for showing empathy and kindness to others. You have started this term off focused and ready to learn. We love that you are trying your best in all subjects and are going out of your way to help your peers. Great work Jay!

Year 3-4

Harvey Cartwright - for your great start to the year in 3/4G! Your classmates have recognised that you have been meeting all the expectations, contributed positively in discussions and always given your best effort! Great work Harvey, keep it up!

Kayden Gromek - for an outstanding start to the new school year. You have shown great focus during learning time and have given every task your best effort. You should feel very proud of yourself Kayden!

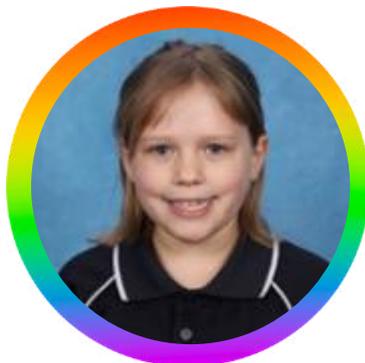
Year 5-6

Kailen McLeod - for making a fantastic start to the year. It has been great to see you step into the role of a leader; you are setting a wonderful example for your peers. Keep it up, Kailen!

Bonnie Ellis - for always showing kindness, helping your peers with no hesitation, and having a positive attitude towards your learning. You're really stepping up and showing leadership and empathy at the start of this year!

Amber Holt - for showing wonderful hard work and being inclusive and kind to others. We are so proud of the way you have embraced school and demonstrated our school values. Keep up the great work, Amber!

**Pride of
RPS...
Amber**



GOTCHA AWARD

As a part of our SWPBS- School-wide positive behaviour support our staff are always on the look out for students who are showing our school values both in the classroom and playground.

Our GOTCHA award is given to a student who staff notice and recognise as showing our school values

- 2 'Gotchas' awarded each day- one at lunch and one at recess
- Staff on duty are 'on the hunt to catch someone' they can 'Gotcha' for showing our school values
- Students bring their 'Gotcha' to the office to get an instant prize & add their name to the 'Gotcha Wall of Fame'
- At the next Assembly students' names will be on the 'Gotcha Wheel' to see who wins the major prize.
- Your child will bring home their GOTCHA card if they are caught, so please ask them what they got it for

Week
1 & 2

GOTCHA
Winners



Introducing... Our Student Leaders of 2026



SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Stella Brown
Ivy Briggs
Amelia Colvin
Ella Williamson

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAPTAINS

Sienna Collins
Mackenzie O'Meara
Charlie Hamilton
Nikita Briedis





WELLBEING CAPTAINS

Hollie Lomax

Lily Black

Alyssa Lowen-Webb

Jodie Crooks-Mooney

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM YEAR 3-5 REPRESENTATIVES



YEAR 5 - Archer Goethe-Buller, Amber Holt, Olivia Livingstone, Ruby Rasmussen

YEAR 4 - Marley Crawford, Clementine Duncan, Hunter McIntyre, Nikaela McInnes

YEAR 3 - Camilla Brown, Mabel Congdon, Wynter Griffin, Abigail McLeod

Meet Our House Captains

of 2026



BLUE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Bonnie Ellis & Amelia Kelly



GREEN HOUSE CAPTAINS

Paige Peuten & Scarlet Giannone



RED HOUSE CAPTAINS

Summer Edwards & Violet Pfeiffer



YELLOW HOUSE CAPTAINS

Kailen McLeod & Blair Prescott

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

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 financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and 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 excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card [or](#) [are](#) an out of home care [student](#) you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly 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 \$400 for all 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.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



Autism Connect National autism helpline

Autism information you can trust. Free, confidential and independent.

Autism Connect will connect you to a friendly team of advisors who provide expert information and advice in many areas, including:

- Exploring autism and autistic identity
- Behaviour and communication strategies
- Assessment and diagnosis support
- School and education
- The NDIS
- Referrals to services
- Peer support connections
- Finding autism-inclusive events
- Making environments accessible

Phone: 1300 308 699

Email: info@autismconnect.org.au

Webchat: [amaze.org.au/autismconnect](https://www.vic.gov.au/autismconnect)

Appendix A

Fact sheet 1: school council elections – information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent member category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category according to Ministerial Order 1280. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty

act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds

act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available

exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school

use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions

comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law

demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council

encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Gateway Health

Parenting Programs

We run group based parent education programs and information sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 18 years living in the Ovens Murray region. Programs are free, evidence based and flexible so they can be tailored to your family's needs.

Term 1, 2026 programs

Registrations now open. All programs are free.



Tuning in to Kids – Wodonga

A five-week program for parents and carers of children aged 2–10 years. Learn practical emotion coaching tools to help your child understand and manage feelings, while strengthening your relationship.

When: Tuesdays, 10 February – 10 March, 10 am–12 pm

Where: Gateway Health, Wodonga

[Enrol now](#)



Tuning in to Teens – online

A six-week online group for parents and carers of young people aged 10–18 years, focusing on understanding and responding to teens' emotions.

When: Wednesdays, 18 February – 25 March, 6.30–8.30 pm

Where: Online (link provided on registration)

[Enrol now](#)



Parent Troubleshooting sessions

90-minute appointments with a trained Parent Educator to focus on one key parenting challenge, using evidence-based strategies tailored to your family.

Dates: From 2 February (4 weeks)

Times:

9–10.30 am

10.30 am–12 pm

12–1.30 pm

On: Mondays – Wednesdays – Fridays

Format: Online, phone or face to face

[Request an appointment](#)



Raising Resilient Children – Alpine Shire

A two-hour seminar exploring simple strategies to help children build confidence, manage emotions and bounce back from life's challenges.

When: Coming Soon



Raising Resilient Children – online

An evening online session for parents and carers wanting practical tools to support children's resilience, confidence and emotional regulation.

When: Thursday 26 March, 6.30–8.30 pm

Where: Online (link provided on registration)

[Enrol now](#)