

The West Express

Warrnambool West Primary School

'WWPS is a Child Safe school'



On behalf of Warrnambool West Primary School, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this school is built, and we recognise their connection to the land and community. We respect the stories, traditions, and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We respect the Elders past, present and emerging on this land, as we continue our learning journey together.



From the Principal

Ms Karen Holdsworth

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our entire Warrnambool West team. To our dedicated teachers, our exceptional ES staff, and our hard-working administration team — thank you. Your professionalism, care and unwavering commitment to our students is the heartbeat of our school. Every day you go above and beyond, and it does not go unnoticed.

This year we also say *farewell* to Sarah Smith, who begins an exciting new chapter in her teaching career. Sarah, we are incredibly grateful for the passion, kindness and expertise you have brought to WWPS. You will be deeply missed, and we wish you every success in this next chapter.

A sincere thank you to all our volunteers — families, community members and helpers who support excursions, events, classroom programs and so much more. Your generosity enriches our school and expands the opportunities we can offer our young people. A celebration morning tea was held yesterday for our wonderful helpers, and I wish them a safe and Happy Christmas.

My heartfelt thank you to all the families of Warrnambool West PS. To the carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, dads and mums — you are important to this school and it is because of you that our students come to school each day with a smile. Throughout the year, we have had our bumps but also some great times. I love the connections I have formed with many of our families, and I hope this continues across the years as your child continues to grow.

We are incredibly proud of the partnerships and programs that make Warrnambool West Primary School such a special place. Penny and the Dogs Connect program continue to bring calm, comfort and connection to our students every day. Pip from Story Dogs program has given many children the confidence to read, smile and shine. Our strong and respectful partnership with Gunditjmara continues to guide our learning, our culture and our future direction. Next year we strengthen our shared vision, including the development of an Indigenous Garden and mural — a living and growing space for culture, learning and belonging.

Connections with our wider community have also enriched our work. Jill from the Warrnambool West Neighbourhood House has been an extraordinary support and advocate for our school, working alongside us to strengthen wellbeing, community links and opportunities for families. Her contribution reflects my broader vision for 2026 and beyond, where community, health, wellbeing and family support sit at the centre of how we educate and care for our young people.

I wish our 2025 Year 6 cohort all the best in their endeavours next year and beyond. Secondary school is a stepping stone to discovering who you are, where you want to be in life and how you can achieve greatness. I know our teachers have prepared these students for success, resilience, and with lifelong skills. I hope the students look back on Warrnambool West PS with fond memories and know that the staff will miss them. Good luck Year 6s!

As I reflect on the year, I am filled with enormous pride in our students. Their confidence, happiness and growth have brought tears to my eyes more than once. Watching them learn, overcome challenges, discover strengths and support one another is the joy of our work. They continue to amaze us.

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SAILING TOWARDS SUCCESS

Transition Day success.

Tuesday 9th December saw a successful transition day where students met their 2026 teacher and classmates. I saw some keen kindergarten children take over the Foundation room and at the other end of the school, some very proud Year 5s know that their leadership and final year of school is well supported.

With an increase of students in 2026, we have also increased the number of classrooms from 6 to 7 from 2026, so that smaller class sizes commence the year with the greatest impact. The structure across the school is as follows:

Foundation	Teachers: Mrs Renae Blake and Mrs Meagan Robers ES: Tanya Tampion			
Year 1/2	1/2M	Teacher: Mrs Geraldine Mitchell ES: Michelle Nicholas	1/2EM	Teachers: Miss Zoe Evans & Ms Mary-Rose McElgunn ES: Sasha Suckling
Year 3/4	3/4H	Teacher: Miss Madi Hoy ES: Georga Whiting	3/4WB	Teachers: Mrs Christina White and Mrs Danielle Bissett ES: Fiona Ludeman
Year 5/6	5/6G	Teacher: Miss Sinead Grey ES: Ros Templeton	5/6S	Teacher: Mr Daniel Symonds ES: Petra Lammers
PE, STEM, Hands on Learning	Mr Ryan Fitzgibbon			
Music, Visual Arts	Ms Brianna Kavanagh			
Music Mastery	Mrs Merran Moir			
Wellbeing Mentor	Mr David Yates			
Student Counsellor	Abbie Collinson			
Intervention	Ms Mary-Rose McElgunn			
Business Manager	Chelsea Maddocks			
Office Assistant	Sasha Suckling			
Maintenance	Michael Burn			

We welcome back Mary-Rose McElgunn from her extended leave this year. We have missed her knowledge and passion for education.

I would personally like to thank my assistant principal Jodie Abbott and leading teacher Meagan Roberts for walking alongside of me this year with your continued partnership and support. Your dedication, knowledge, clear direction and collaborative spirit have shaped a positive and successful year for our whole school community.

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Mr Ryan Fitzgibbon and his wife, Ellin on the arrival of their new daughter Iris. She was born 1:45pm on Friday 5th December. Vance will be very excited to have a new baby sister. We wish you happiness and love as you all enjoy this exciting new chapter.

School Council Membership 2026

From 2026, parents, carers and community members who would like to join the school council need a working with children (WWC) clearance to nominate. If you are considering nominating for school council, and don't already have a WWCC, I encourage you to apply for a volunteer WWC check as soon as possible. This will allow for processing times, which are estimated to be from 3 to 12 weeks.

Please note that if you do not hold a WWC clearance, you will not be able to nominate for school council, so it is vital that you prepare in advance. Obtaining a WWC clearance is free for volunteers, and you can apply online at Service Victoria.

When applying for your volunteer WWC check, please nominate the Department of Education as the organisation you are working for.

If you already hold an employee WWC clearance, you do not need to obtain a volunteer WWC clearance to nominate for school council.

Victorian Institute of Teaching-registered teachers and school students who are interested in joining school council are not required to obtain a WWC clearance.

Current parents and community members of school council do not need to apply for a WWC check immediately. Current members only need a WWC clearance if their term ends and they wish to nominate or be co-opted again. For more information, refer to Ministerial Order 1280 (Constitution of Government School Councils) 2020.

Thank you for a wonderful year of learning, connection and community. I wish all families a restful break and a safe, happy holiday season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026 as we continue to grow, connect and thrive together.

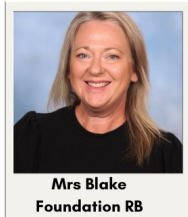
A few important end-of-year reminders:

- Year 6 Graduation: Monday 15th December. Student and staff meal from 5.30pm and ceremony commencing at 7pm in the Multipurpose Room.
- Final Assembly and Christmas celebration: Tuesday 16th December at 9.30am. Students dismissed at normal time 3.20pm.
- Student Testing Days will take place on 17th and 18th December. Students are only required to attend during their scheduled testing time. TheirCare will be operating.
- 2026 Class Placements and testing days were sent home yesterday
- Last day for school staff—Friday 19th December. Office closes at 1pm.
- The school office will reopen in the new year on Monday 27th January. Book boxes will be available to collect and uniform will available to purchase on this day from 10am-4pm.

Have a great holidays,
Karen Holdsworth



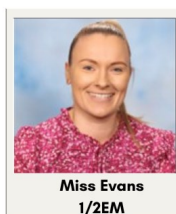
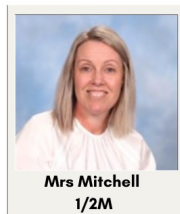
Meet the 2026 Teacher team.

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday



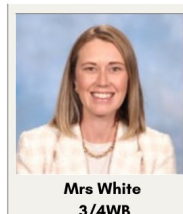
Thursday - Friday



Tuesday - Thursday - Friday



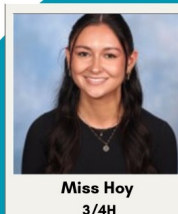
Monday - Wednesday



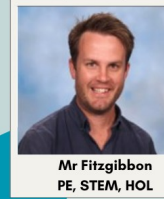
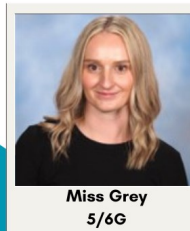
Tuesday - Thursday - Friday



Monday - Wednesday



Tuesday - Thursday - Friday



THEIRCARE NEWSLETTER



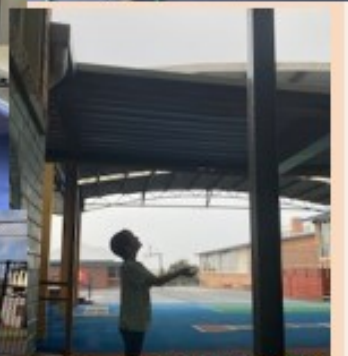
WEEK 10 2025

TERM 4

End of Year Message – TheirCare Warrnambool West

As we near the end of the year, I wanted to reach out to all families regarding the future of TheirCare at Warrnambool West Primary School. As many of you are already aware, TheirCare will no longer be operating at the school in 2026, and our final day of service will be Thursday, 19 December. While this change is significant, there is also good news. The school is in the process of arranging a new provider for after-school care in 2026. I am working closely alongside the school to support a smooth transition, ensuring that families can feel confident that care arrangements and policies are being thoughtfully organised for next year. Over the past few years, we have shared so many laughs, achievements, and memorable moments at TheirCare. I want to sincerely thank all our families for your support, trust, and willingness to build strong relationships with our team. It has been a privilege to watch the children grow, learn, and take part in the many activities and experiences that have brought so much joy to our program. I will continue to keep families informed as further details for 2026 are confirmed. Please be reassured that planning is well underway. On behalf of TheirCare, thank you for your patience, kindness, and partnership. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a safe and happy New Year, and the very best for the future.

Warm regards,
Nicole
Coordinator – TheirCare Warrnambool West



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Times

Before school care 07:00AM-08:45PM

After school care 03:20PM-06:00PM

Big Life

Term 4
Weeks 9 & 10

This fortnight in Big Life, students are learning about **anchors**: personal tools and routines that help us stay steady when life feels challenging or uncertain. Just like a boat drops its anchor to stay grounded in rough seas, our anchors help us feel **calm, safe and in control** when we face tricky emotions or changes.

Anchors can be small, everyday actions like deep breathing, talking to someone we trust, journaling, cuddling into a favourite blanket, listening to music, spending time in nature, moving our body, a warm shower, a cool drink - simple things that can help us cope positively.

How you can support this conversation & learning at home:



Share what helps each of you feel calm or comforted when things feel tough.

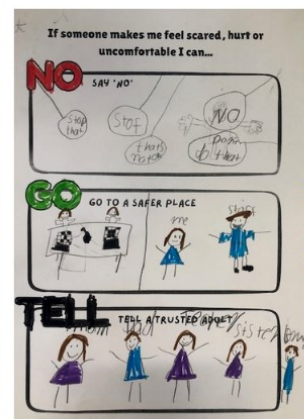
Practice using anchors together when your child feels upset or overwhelmed.

Notice & reflect after challenges: "What helped you feel calm & steady again?"

Encourage regular routines: Consistent daily habits like dinner table chats or bedtime stories can help children feel safe & secure.

Big Life with Mel

On Tuesday of week 9, the Grade F/1 and 1/2 students learned about the **No, Go, Tell** model for help-seeking. If someone is making us feel uncomfortable or unsafe, we can say *No*, we can *Go* somewhere safer, or we can *Tell* a trusted adult. The grade 4/5s demonstrated how much they have learned about **respectful relationships** this term, including the definitions of respect, consent and violence, and how to seek help when we need it. The Grade 5/6s discussed **respect** and how we can behave in respectful ways, regardless of how we are feeling or who we are with. Mel will be back at West for more Big Life lessons in 2026!



From The Office

End of Year Assembly/Final Day

Tuesday 16th December is students final day for the year. We will be having our End of Year Assembly at 9:30am on this day where our Christmas Raffle will be drawn. We invite all families and friends to attend.

School will finish at 3:20pm on this day.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to families who brought in donations for our annual Christmas Hamper Raffle. We appreciate everyone's assistance in donating Christmas items to the hamper such as bon bons, shortbread, small trinkets and gifts are some examples.

This is one of biggest fundraisers of the year and the more hampers we can make, the more prizes will be on offer to win! Raffle tickets will be sent home today.

Raffle ticket books were sent home with students last week, there are more books available at the office if you require more. These need to be returned to the office no later than Monday 15th December.

Parent Payment Policy and Book Packs

School Council have approved the 2026 Parent Payment Policy. Curriculum Contributions will be \$290.00 per student. These forms need to be returned to the office by Friday 12th December.

Student book packs, including classroom consumables, are now available to be purchased online through Champion Education. Orders need to be placed by Sunday 14th December.

Book packs can be collected from the school office on Tuesday 27th January 2026 between 10am and 4pm.

A copy of the Parent Payment Policy and information regarding book pack ordering have been sent home with students and posted on Compass. Additional copies of these forms are available at the Office.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps eligible families cover the cost of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid, means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts for 2026 are \$400 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child. If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

Lunch Orders 2026

We thank Morriss Road Takeaway for supplying our lunch orders this year. They will continue to supply our lunch orders in 2026. Lunch orders will again be available each Wednesday from February 4th 2026.

Thank you

We acknowledge Nathan from Kardinia Church for kindly donating Christmas Hamper Boxes for families. This is a great thing for many of our families to receive to help over the holiday season.

We thank you for your generosity.

