



Tallygaroopna Primary School Newsletter

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🌐 <https://www.tally-ps-3067.vic.edu.au>

Term 1 #1 - January 30th 2024

>> NOTES / PAYMENTS DUE <<

Please finalise any outstanding payments

1. Staff for 2024 – This is summarised below:

Principal – David Brodie
Business Manager – Karen Armstrong
F/1 Teacher & Literacy – Hayley McDonald
Grade 2/3 Teacher & Numeracy – Tori Puetz
Grade 4/5 Teacher – Josh Dickson
Grade 5/6 Teacher – Lauren Ash
Mental Health & Wellbeing – Bev Montgomery
Aide Support – Beck Wayman, Stacey Towers & Genevieve Whitelaw
Volunteers – Sue Muston, Marie Austin & Rob Lothian
P.E / Respectful Relationships & Resilience Project – Bev Montgomery
Music – Kathleen Parry
Science – Priya Steer
Library – Katrina Campbell
Art – Clark Pettigrew
TLI Tutor – TBC
ICT Technician – Janne Kenttala

2. Grade Expert (Parent Portal) – This is used by our school to send you important information about your child, such as school reports, student of the week awards and details of incidents at the school. Families should have received information via email.

3. Communication – We all need to be mindful of contacting staff and families outside of school hours (beyond 5pm). This may involve text messaging, phone calls, Class Dojo and Skool Loop - it is important to remember that we all have lives away from the busy work day. Please feel free to discuss any issues with myself or specific class teachers. At Tallygaroopna PS, we are accessible to parents and we value the importance of positive and constructive communication with all of our families. Please contact the school to make an appointment if needed – so that issues can be addressed at an appropriate time, which does not affect normal planning and learning time. David

4. School Values – Our values are [Inclusion](#), [Respect & Honesty](#). These are used to support our students, teachers and parents in becoming positive citizens within their community.

5. BYOD Program – We will be offering families in Grades 5/6 the BYOD program again this year. Acceptable Use agreements were sent home before the end of 2023 – return these ASAP please. Apple iPads are the preferred devices for our classroom but these are not compulsory as some will be provided for student use as per usual. [Other specific information is found here.](#)

6. Student Information Forms – This week a number of forms will go home to all families to be filled out, signed and returned. These forms are essential for the general operation of the school and it would be appreciated if these are returned by Friday, 9th February. These will include such things as the Green Confidential Student Information Details & Consent Form

7. Engagement Policy – This policy is updated annually and was endorsed at School Council in 2023. Specific information relates to behaviour expectations for all of our staff, students and families, which links to our current school values. [This policy can be viewed here.](#)

8. E Smart Policy – This policy is updated annually and was endorsed at School Council at the end of 2023. Specific info relates to acceptable use with the internet and other digital technologies. [This policy can be viewed here.](#)

9. Office 365 / Minecraft – Students in Grades F-6 have an opportunity to access Office 365 again this year. We will primarily be using this resource to use Minecraft at school. Office 365 is an online learning service to support learning and teaching.

10. Information Evening – The Information and Meet the Teachers evening will be held at school again. This is planned for Tuesday 13th February from 6pm – 7.30pm and specific information will be sent home this week.

11. Student Profile Folder – Students may purchase this to store their reports. Cost is \$15.00 per folder.

12. Green Reader Bags – Students will need to purchase this if new to the school or have lost their previous bag. Cost is \$15.00 per bag.

David Brodie (Principal)

Our general school rule is to “consider the feelings of others at all times”.

Food scraps & food wrappers will go home in student lunch boxes to assist with hygiene in the school
[The Department's latest advice on coronavirus can be found at this website](#)

**RESPECT
HONESTY
INCLUSION**

13. OSH Care – OSH Care is available for 5 days a week (excluding term holidays, public holidays and curriculum days). This service is from 3.25pm until 6pm and late fees are in place (\$5 per 10 minutes per child). An enrolment form is a requirement for each student in the service. There is now a flat rate of \$25 per session for each child.

14. Extreme Heat – We all know that a heat wave usually occurs as we return to school. Therefore, we shouldn't be surprised that we are expecting extremely high temperatures for the coming weeks. We have an extreme weather timetable to cover these hot days. Students will remain indoors for some or all of afternoon recess time and will be encouraged to drink lots of water. Please make sure they bring a water bottle to school each day.

15. Rest Days - Foundations – Throughout January and February, children in Foundation WILL NOT attend school on Wednesdays. They will remain at home on 31st January and also the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th of February. There are some days where Miss McDonald will require your child to attend a certain time for specific testing (English Online Testing) – parents were informed of these times last year and reminders will be sent prior to these days. The first full week for Foundation students will begin on Monday 4th March – extra days can be negotiated if needed.

16. School Council Meetings – We are mandated to have 8 meetings a year. There are a couple of openings this year if anyone would like to join School Council – feel free to contact David for any clarification. The 1st meeting is set for Monday 19th February – this will be our Annual General Meeting. Nominations for School Council need to be received by Monday 12th February.

17. Specialist Programs – We will be having a high quality Specialist Program again in 2024 to enable our students to reach their potential in a variety of learning opportunities. Specific dates are listed in the calendar on the last page of this newsletter.

18. Art / Library – It would be appreciated if an old shirt could be supplied as an art smock if possible. This year, families will need their green reader bag or make a library bag for borrowing library books – a pillow slip could be ok for this also. No borrowing will be allowed without this.

19. Term Dates - 2024 – These are summarised as:
Term 1: Tuesday 30th Jan – Thursday 28th March
Term 2: Monday 15th April – Friday 28th June
Term 3: Monday 15th July – Friday 20th September
Term 4: Monday 7th October – Friday 20th Dec

20. Headlice – Please be vigilant in checking your child's hair for lice. There were some head lice incidents last year and we would like to have a relatively 'lice-free' year in 2024. Thanks for your cooperation.

21. Student of the Week – This begins this week and families will be notified. Awards are presented each Friday at assembly at 3pm.

22. Frozen Ice Sticks – Frozen ice sticks will be available for sale each Friday at lunchtime for 50 cents each.

23. Fruit & Foods – This year, all classrooms will again be having a fruit/vegetable break at 10.00am each morning. Students are asked to bring along a piece of fruit/vegetable to eat at this time. There will still be the usual play lunch at recess time which will be eaten in classrooms for all students. This enables our school to be relatively rubbish free outside.

24. Borrowing Agreement – Last year, School Council again endorsed a borrowing agreement for 2024. This relates to the prompt payment of lost or damaged resources by the required date, or a borrowing suspension will take place. As a result, all families will be asked to sign a borrowing agreement before the first Library session – Wednesday 14th February.

25. Parent Payment Arrangements for 2024 – These were approved at school council on 16th October, 2023 and are set at \$200 per student for 2024 to cover student supplies, online subscriptions and MACC & MARC costs. Payment can be made by direct bank transfer, cash or cheque. Further details are now available on the school website and [can be found here](#).

26. Online Resources – Our school has again invested in a number of online educational programs which are available for student use at home and at school. These programs complement specific activities which are implemented in class. Passwords will be sent home with parents for these as soon as possible – Essential Assessment, Epic, Prodigy...etc.

27. Sun Smart Policy – Tallygaroopna Primary School endorses a Sun Smart policy during the warm months (September until the end of April). Students must wear their wide-brimmed/bucket hat at recess and lunchtime. Students without hats must stay in the undercover area between the Multipurpose Room and the brick building. New hats may be purchased from the school at a cost of \$15.

28. Medicine at School – For those students required to have medication whilst at school, a Medication Request form is required to be filled out, signed and returned to the school office prior to the student being administered medication. Further copies are available at the office. This does not apply to children with asthma with their puffer, although the office must be informed of the child's needs in this regard. Any change to the child's medical condition should be relayed to the office ASAP.

29. Grade 3/4 Camp – Expression of interest for this camp at 15 Mile Creek along with a deposit was due before the end of the 2023 school year. Specific information will be sent home to families who have shown interest before the end of the week – could this be returned by Friday 16th Feb at the latest – the camp begins on Tuesday 5th March and Mr Brodie and Miss Puetz will be attending. The first day on Monday 4th March will be an induction held at Tallygaroopna Primary School followed by 4 days at the Camp returning to school on Friday 8th March. We anticipate that the cost of the camp will be only about \$200 - TBC. **Please contact the school if your child will not be attending the camp – this is urgent so that the final cost can be confirmed.**

30. Grade 5/6 Camp – The Grade 5/6 Camp will be held at Ballarat this year from Monday 28th to Wednesday 28th October.

31. Rapid Antigen Tests – A reminder to families that RA tests can be collected at school by parents at any time – contact the school if you would like your child to take a box home, please.

32. Water & Suncream – This can be accessed in the Project Space near the large mirror on a daily basis for all students.

33. School Times – We begin general organisation in the morning from 8.45am to 9am. The school day commences at 9.00am and concludes at 3.25pm. Morning recess is from 11.00am – 11.40am (lunch from 11.40am – 11.55am) and afternoon recess is from 1.25pm – 1.45pm (afternoon snack is from 1.45pm – 1.55pm). We also have a fruit break at 10am in the morning during the first 2 hours of learning.

34. Skool Loop – To aid communication between our school and the home we will continue to use an application which is available on computers and mobile devices called Skool Loop. This is a school app and business program designed for newsletters, notices, absences...etc. The school app includes an instant message service to alert when new information is available - it would be appreciated if all families could download this ASAP so that immediate alerts go directly to everyone. New groups have been set up for 2024.

35. School Payments – When making payment to the school bank account for multiple items, please make one direct deposit for the total amount with your family name listed and email the school a message detailing the breakdown of the payment.

36. Student Headphones – In past years, students have supplied their own headphones to use at school. We are encouraging this again in 2024 for all students so that these can be used daily with a variety of ICT programs utilised at school.

37. School Bus Safety – Thanks to all families who returned information about the school bus for 2024 before school began. It is imperative that families who have children who are bus travellers contact the school on 59298264 if their children are not going on the bus in the afternoon (before 3pm). All families are mandated to join the BUS - EM group on Skool Loop.

38. English Online Interview – [The English Online Interview \(EOI\)](#) is an online tool for assessing the English skills of students in Foundation and Grade 1. A timetable with more specific information was sent home before the end of the 2023 school year – testing begins on Tuesday 6th February. Contact the school if alterations need to be made please.

39. Personal Property – Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to school property. Therefore, staff, students, parents and guardians should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

40. Conveyance – [The Conveyance Allowance Program \(CAP\)](#) is a form of financial assistance to help families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school or campus. Parents applying for the allowance are required to complete an application form – contact Karen if needed.

41. Newsletter / Website – The newsletter will be available to families via Skool Loop and on our school website each Monday after school. Some copies are available at the office if needed – contact Karen about this. There will be some items / notes / permission forms...etc, which will be sent home still, please check your child's bag for these as they contain important information on what is taking place in the school.

42. Tutoring Program – At present, we anticipate that this support program will begin later February / early March. This will allow our school to make reasonable judgements on children who would benefit from this program. Consent forms will go home with specific children involved and we anticipate that these sessions will be held each Monday throughout the school year.

43. Mental Health Fund – There will be a number of services available to individual students again this year to support the needs of our children. This support will begin in the next few weeks and will involve Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Lego Therapy – more information will be available soon. All of the students in the school will benefit from involvement in the Resilience Project – thanks to this specific funding.

44. Absence Notes – The preferred method to notify the school is via Skool Loop. A written note will also be accepted so that we have something in writing

45. Parents' Club – New and existing parents are always welcome to join this club which constantly supports the school. In previous years some great fundraising has occurred and the school was able to utilise some funds to go towards school programs and excursions which was greatly appreciated. The next Parents' Club Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8th February 2024 straight after school.

46. Accident Insurance – Our school does not have an accident insurance policy to cover student injuries or ambulance transport. A reminder to parents and guardians that they are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment and ambulance attendance / transport. We recommend all families arrange ambulance cover in case of emergency. There are also a variety of commercial insurance policies available that would cover accidents at school.

47. Camps & Excursion Policy – Our Camps & Excursion policy is [found here](#) for parents to refer to if needed.

48. CSEF Applications – The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs 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. [Further information is found here.](#)

49. Sharing of Food – We would like children at our school to continue to not share food for special occasions (ie: birthday cake), however pre-packaged food which doesn't require anyone to touch this food is ok (ie: lollipop). Please contact Class Teachers and the Principal in regard to this, so that families can be informed (via Skool Loop / Dojo) and then make an informed decision in regard to participation.

50. Respectful Behaviours Policy – The Education Department continues to promote and reinforce a Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy, which promotes the importance of respectful and collaborative relationships between parents, carers and school staff. This policy is [found here](#)

51. Class Dojo – All families will be granted access to classrooms ASAP. Passwords will be sent home to enable families to view classroom activities and also communicate with class teachers as needed. Please check that you have access to Class Dojo ASAP and let the Principal know if you need any support with this form of two way communication.

52. Mental Health in Schools – This year, all schools will again have an opportunity to employ a qualified teacher, to implement a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Mrs Monty will be fulfilling this role again each Thursday and Friday and will be implementing the Resilience Project and aspects of the Respectful Relationships curriculum which is mandated for all schools. Other activities will involve Men's Shed visits, cooking classes and keeping our vegie patch maintained as this role evolves over time.

53. School Uniform Reminder – A uniform dress code reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing their school. A reminder to all families to reinforce this please. From May until the end of August, school beanies and scarves are permitted to be worn outside – beanies can be purchased from school in line with our uniform policy as well – we would appreciate green or red beanies and scarves only.

54. Annual Privacy Reminder – Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. [More information can be found here.](#) For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents.](#)

54. Policies – Some specific policies which are communicated to our school community at the start of each year are found here:

[Car Parking Policy](#)

[Homework Policy](#)

55. Late Arrivals / Early Departures – There is a Late Arrivals/Early Departures book at the office, which needs to be signed for late arriving or early departing students. This needs to be signed by parents (or whoever is dropping off or picking up your child). There is also a Visitor's Book to be signed by all visitors to the school (this includes parents who stay for Parents' Club activities, etc). This will aid our emergency management.

56. Terrific Kids – Congratulations to Liam and Zayne who were our recipients of Terrific Kids Awards at the end of Term 4 last year. Each student was kindly given a showbag from a representative from Kiwanis on this day.

Terrific kids demonstrate the following qualities – thoughtful, enthusiastic, respectful, responsible, inclusive, friendly, inquisitive and capable

HI TALLY P.S

My name is Lynette Priya Steer, but I'm known as Priya to my family and friends. (Blame my parents. They couldn't make up their minds!).

I'm excited to be teaching science at Tally next year and I'm looking forward to be working at a small family focused school.

I have a pet rabbit called JoJo, a lovely husband and 2 adult sons. My favourite food is a pasta and my favourite colour is bright blue. I love lizards and frogs and I love great coffee too. Please come and say hello so that I can get to know you your names. (Mums and Dads too!)



Here's some tips to ensure you receive notices and push notifications

- When you download the Skool Loop App you will be asked if you would like notifications please **tap yes**. Some devices don't ask this question and automatically tick yes for you. This can be changed in your settings
- If your notifications are turned off in your device settings, some phones apply that to all apps when downloading. In the phone settings please make sure your notifications are turned on
- Check your App Store or Google Play regularly for any outstanding updates
- There are 2 different notices school will send out: **push notification** (banner and ding) or a **notice** (visual alert only)
- You will only receive a push notification if you are not using the app at the time
- If your volume is off you will not hear an alert
- You will see a visual alert if a **notice** has been posted. You will not hear a ding
- You will only hear a ding if the school sends a **push notification**.

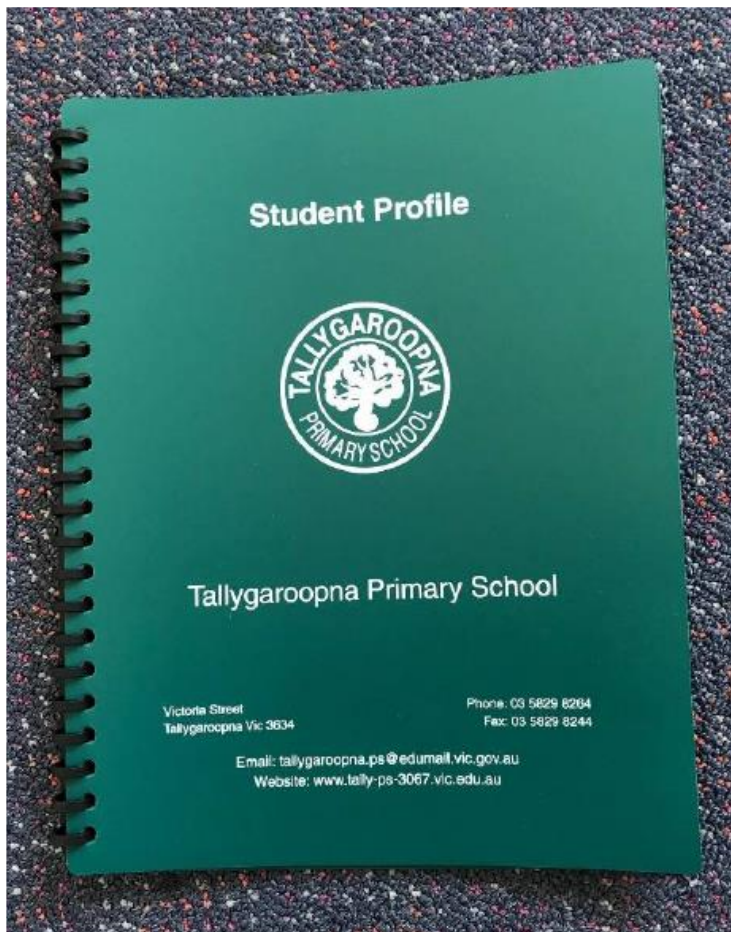


[Child Safety Training for School Volunteers can be accessed here](#)



Essential for all students

Students will need to purchase this if new to the school or have lost their previous bag. Cost is \$15.00 per bag. Please check the relevant box on the Parent Payment Arrangements letter if you require one or see Karen at the office.



An option for all students

Students may purchase this to store their reports. Cost is \$15.00 per folder. Please check the relevant box on the Parent Payment Arrangements letter if you require one or see Karen in the office.

Photos of the Week – School Captains



This year we welcome the following 9 families to our school for the first time – Kara Blizzard & Ben Pedretti (Darcy), Jacki Wade & Jace Brassil (Levi), Justin Lindrea & Tegan Nunn plus Katelyn Florey & Matt Clark (Skylar), Jaymie Biggs (Ruby), Ryan Lawless & Mary Rendell (Frankie & Willow), Ebony Noble (Eli), Tammy & John Stephens (Henry), Diana & Adrian Dow (Allegra) and Casey Moser (Lexie & Grace). Welcome back to Eliza & Ken Matheson also (Max). Welcome to our school community and we trust that your time at Tallygaroopna PS will be both rich and rewarding.

New pupils starting this year are: Darcy Blizzard, Levi Brassil, Skylar Florey, Ruby Drieberg Biggs, Britney Gavenlock, Mason Hepworth, Eden Hill, Vera Holland, Frankie Lawless, Eli Nikkelson, Sophie Osborne and Henry Stephens (all Foundation students). Other new students are: Lexie & Grace Moser (Grade 1 & 4), Willow Lawless (Grade 3), Max Matheson (Grade 5) and Allegra Dow (Grade 5).

School staff have a right to be safe at work

Safe and respectful school communities create a healthy and safe workplace for school staff and a better environment for students to thrive.

Professional, collaborative relationships are based on:



Open and honest communication



Trust and respect



Working together



Fair and reasonable expectations by all

The following behaviours are **not** acceptable in our school:

⊗ Threats

⊗ Violence

⊗ Rudeness

⊗ Harassment

⊗ Discriminatory and derogatory comments

⊗ Aggression

⊗ Intimidation

⊗ Threatening gestures

This includes in-person, over-the-phone, email, text message, social media and online platforms.

If you experience any of these behaviours, or are concerned about the risk of this occurring, please report in eduSafe Plus and inform your elected Health and Safety Representative:

For more information refer to: **Work-Related Violence Policy and Procedure.**



21-088

Supervision – Parents are reminded that grounds supervision does not begin until 8.30am so please do not send students early to school for the sake of it or to play. [This is documented in our staff supervision policy.](#)

NEW SKOOL LOOP GROUPS ARE NOW SET UP FOR 2024 – JOIN THESE ASAP TO RECEIVE RELEVANT NOTIFICATIONS

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE CONNECTED ON CLASS DOJO ALSO TO RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM CLASS TEACHERS – CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU NEED ANY HELP ASAP.

TALLY P.S. CALENDAR

(all dates TBC)



Term 1 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
JAN 29 Teachers Start	30 Chaplain All Students Start	31 PE / Music & Science Foundation – Rest Day	FEB 1 RR & RP Chaplain (1-3pm)	2
5	6 Chaplain Safer Internet Day EOL Testing – F1	7 PE / Music / Art & Science Foundation – Rest Day	8 RR & RP Parents Club Mtg. Chaplain (1-3pm)	9
12	13 Chaplain Meet & Greet Night EOL Testing – F1	14 PE / Music / Lib & Science Foundation – Rest Day	15 RR & RP GRIP Conference Chaplain (1-3pm)	16
19 School Council 1 EOL Testing – F1	20 Chaplain	21 PE / Music / Art & Science Foundation – Rest Day	22 RR & RP Chaplain (1-3pm)	23
26	27 Chaplain EOL Testing – F1	28 PE / Music / Lib & Science Foundation – Rest Day	29 RR & RP Chaplain (1-3pm)	MARCH 1
4 EOL Testing – F1	5 Chaplain 15 MC Camp – 34	6 PE / Music / Art & Science 15 MC Camp – 34	7 RR & RP 15 MC Camp – 34 Chaplain (1-3pm)	8 15 MC Camp – 34
11 Labour Day - Holiday	12 Chaplain	13 PE / Music / Lib & Science Student Conferences	14 RR & RP NAPLAN Starts – 3&5 Chaplain (1-3pm)	15 Athletic Sports
18 Student Conferences	19 Chaplain	20 PE / Music / Art & Science	21 RR & RP Chaplain (1-3pm)	22
25 NAPLAN Ends – 3&5 School Council 2	26 Chaplain	27 PE / Music / Lib & Science Athletic Sports – Back Up Day	28 Term 1 Ends RR & RP Chaplain (1-3pm)	29

DIRECT BANK DEPOSIT - Account Name: Tallygaroopna Primary School
BSB: 063—527 / Account number: 0090 7788