



3RD MARCH 2023

THE NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Foster Primary School



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Scott Moorhouse

Its great to see our students being very proactive in running events for each other and the community. The SRC are selling icy poles on Fridays and this money is going to fund further activities into the future for students. The Early Act Club are running the 'Wheel Chairs for Kids' day next Friday in order to raise money for Wheel Chairs for children overseas who otherwise cannot afford one. The students have done a marvellous job in their organisation and promotion. To find out please go to <https://wheelchairsforkids.org/>.

Attendance

Attendance is vital for children to learn at the right level and receive consistent tuition. Our school aims for a 95%+ attendance rate. At 90% this means that students are missing one day per fortnight - which in the grand scheme of learning is a lot. While we still encourage those who are ill to stay home it is important to make good choices with regards to children attending school, having birthday's away or taking the day off to go shopping are not reasonable excuses. We encourage you to use Compass to account for absences or phone the school.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 2023

3rd Safe Pet Handling incursion
10th Wheelchairs for Kids Event
13th Labour Day Public Holiday
15th - 27th NAPLAN
16th Regional Swimming
21st Harmony Day
29th Prom Coast Athletics
31st Hot Cross Bun Day

April 2023

5th District Athletics
6th Last day term 1
7th Good Friday
24th Term 2 starts - Student free day
25th ANZAC Day
28th State Swimming

May 2023

3rd & 4th Foster PS Got Talent
8th Stocky's birthday
11th School incursion & Foster PS Got Talent GF
12th Gr 5/6 Winter Sports rounds commence

NAPLAN

This can be a very anxious time for both students and parents. Our staff over the last few weeks have been preparing our children for these tasks. Like all tasks, we expect all of our students to give their best effort. Since the change to the online platform there has been an increased emphasis on the first 15 questions. This determines their 'path' for the rest of the test. Our staff have been working hard on the 'test literacy', this is not teaching to the test, it is teaching students how manage and answer the test in all of its forms.

Visiting the School - Child Safe Standards

Many people come into our school each day. In writing this article 5 people have attended the office. If you require your children to be picked up, you are dropping off something or you are coming to help out you must come through the front office. This is part of our Child Safe Standards which is not just school policy but State Legislation. We cannot make any exceptions to these rules. Parents who are waiting for the children at pick up time must wait outside the buildings. I understand that for some this is a change to the usual way of working with us and we aim to make this as user friendly as possible. Our policy can be found here:

<https://fosterps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Visitors.pdf>

Behaviour Concerns

A few parents have come to me concerned about the behaviour of some students within our school. Our staff and myself spend many hours following DET and school process to ensure the best environment for learn we can. We cannot have eyes on all students all of the time - this is physically impossible. We rely on carers and parents talking to us to assist in solving problems that may occur. You can also email the school at foster.ps@education.vic.gov.au if this suits you better. With classes we continue to deliver the curriculum in Respectful Relationships and our School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPBS) supports. We also have Jo and Megan to talk to for both students and family members.

I ask you to please remember that every situation for every child and family is unique and thus may come with restraints on what the school can do to mitigate some behaviour. I whole heartily commend our staff on the way they build relationships with our students so that meaningful conversation can occur early.

Prom Coast Festival

The Prom Coast Festival is happening again over the long weekend. It would be great to see as many families as possible support the festival and enjoy the activities that come with it. We are very spoiled to have such tireless volunteers in the community that continue to put on these events!

Scott Moorhouse
Principal



May 2023 continued...

17th House Cross Country
17th IDAHOBIT Day
19th Gr 5/6 Winter Sports
25th Division Cross Country
26th Gr 5/6 Winter Sports & Sorry Day
29th Reconciliation Day

June 2023

1st Regional Cross Country
2nd Gr 5/6 Winter Sports
7th School incursion
9th Student free day
12th Kings Birthday Public Holiday
15th Division winter sports
19th NAIDOC Celebrations
23rd Last day Term 2

July 2023

2nd World Autism Awareness Day
2nd NAIDOC Week
4th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
10th Term 3 starts
13th State Cross Country
19th Regional Winter sports

August 2023

9th - 11th Gr 3/4 Phillip Island Camp

September 2023

8th Division Athletics
15th Term 3 ends



Junior School News

Interview with Prep/One B students on what they have been enjoying in School during their first 5 weeks of learning.

Nati: I am enjoying reading new books and working with numbers up to 100.

Charlie: Science is fun! We made colours go through celery leaves with water. We are observing 3 (one with red water, one with plain water and one with no water).

Luke: I like sport! running and the handball toss is fun.

Charlotte: In Art we are using paint to mix colours, it is fun.

Peyton: I have enjoyed music and dancing around.

Hunter: I enjoy Grade One learning.

Aysha: I like all of School.

Evie: Painting in Art is enjoyable and Music games are fun.

Oscar: We are counting with big numbers and I like it.

Imogen: Counting with numbers and dancing in Music is fun. I like the drums. We had icy-poles on a hot day, at School!

Arlo: Icy-poles at school is great!

Mahalia: Icy-poles on a hot day was nice because they were cool.

The Preps have settled into the routine of School and even joined in with the older peers for their very first Assembly.

“
Children make
your life
important.”

ERMA BOMBECK



Everyone can learn to learn

Important Dates continued....

October 2023

2nd Term 4 starts

13th FPS Colour Fun Run

November 2023

1st - 3rd Gr 5/6 Camp Coolamatong

6th Student Free Day

7th Melbourne Cup Day

December 2023

1st Student Free Day

20th Student Free Day

20th Term 4 ends



Prep / 1 / 2 were in the Music room today for the Safe Pet Handling Incursion

Students were educated through role modelling about safe handling of dogs.

Middle School News

Term 1 is half way through and the Grade 3 and 4 students have done a tremendous job completing their Water Safety program. A big thanks goes out to all the parent helpers who generously gave their time to assist. Grade 3s are now preparing themselves for the upcoming NAPLAN and the Grade 4s have been an excellent support to the Grade 3s during this preparation, offering many words of encouragement and advice.

All our middle school students continue to be extremely enthusiastic about Garden as we begin learning about eco-systems and Kitchen where students are expanding their knowledge of foods while challenging their palate.

We had a special opportunity to farewell two of our students this week. Everyone at Foster Primary would like to wish Xander and Azariyah all the best with the transition into their new school.

Last week, 3/4M treated the school to a musical item during the whole school assembly and we are looking forward to 3/4Y presenting something in the near future!

Jenny & Andrew



**What did the pencil sharpener say to the pencil?
Stop going in circles and get to the point!**



**Be Respectful
Be a Learner
Be Safe
Be Caring**

Senior School News

This term in our "Be Curious with Maths" sessions, both 5/6J and 5/6P have been working together to explore the properties of Shapes. We have been learning about how to measure area and perimeter as well as the criteria for identifying a Polygon.

We have been using nets, (not butterfly nets) but 3D shapes flattened out, to be able to identify the properties of a variety of shapes. Students were then given an image showing different patterns on different faces of a cube, working in groups they replicated the cube using a net to complete the pattern exactly. There was a lots of conjecture, wondering and curiosity in the room as students struggled to solve the problem.

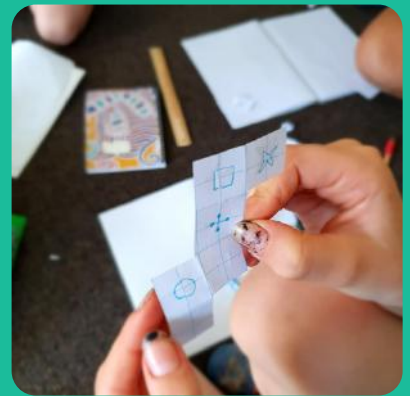
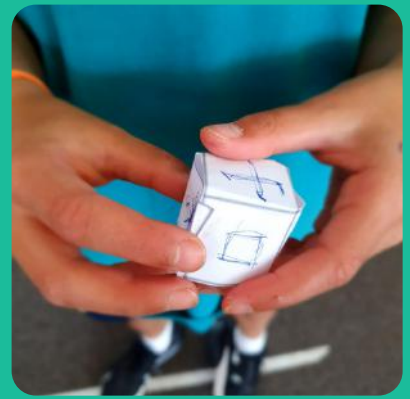
This is what Professor Jo Boaler from Stanford university has to say about struggle-

As parents and teachers, we do just about everything we can to make sure that children don't struggle. It turns out we are making a terrible mistake. Research shows that struggling is absolutely critical to mastery and that the highest achieving people in the world are those who have struggled the most. Neuroscientists have found that mistakes are helpful for brain growth and connectivity and if we are not struggling, we are not learning. Not only is struggle good for our brains but people who know about the value of struggle improve their learning potential. This knowledge would not be earth shattering if it was not for the fact that we in the Western world are trained to jump in and prevent learners from experiencing struggle.

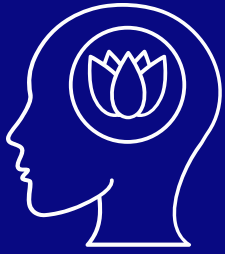
Here is a link to the article if you would like to read more about the benefits of struggle on brain Growth.

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-10-28-why-struggle-is-essential-for-the-brain-and-our-lives>

Katie, Jane, Marion & Chantelle



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Be Safe
Be Caring



Student & school wellbeing news

Curiosity

When we are young, we are naturally curious, about absolutely everything. We look at the world and all that is in it with brand new eyes.

Everything is colourful, there is movement and sound in everything.

We are in awe of the magic all around us.

As we start school, we are taught by our teachers to be curious about learning. To question, to observe, to read, to listen, to learn.

As parents, we hope that this curiosity will continue and that our children will keep an open mind about things around them.

And yet, as we grow older, our own curiosity in the world has all but disappeared. We begin to judge, we stop asking, sometimes we do neither, we just keep going with where our focus is at that moment, not stopping to care about what is happening around us.

Boy we are all so busy.

With everything that happens in life, I love to be reminded that I don't know what is really going on. I don't know what happens in your home, and you don't know what happens in mine. We know not what is happening for anyone.

Sometimes, if we are privileged enough, someone opens up to us and shares their world, or part of it, with us. There are roughly 200 students here and every single one of them will have something going on in their lives we know nothing about. Then we have staff...same deal.

And of course, things happen here at school that the outside world don't know about, sometimes maybe they hear snippets and interpretations.

It reminds me that we need to remember to be curious, not judgemental. We need to ask questions, not gossip. We need to talk kindly and have empathy and not let fear drive our thoughts and words.

I know when I hear about something that may have happened, sometimes I can let my thoughts escalate and my mind runs with a narrative completely made up. I know I need to stop and ask myself, 'is that really true?' The answer can only ever be no.

I'd like to encourage everyone to be curious, to look through a lens of childlike wonder. And should we remain anxious about anything, then we can ask questions, with kindness in our hearts. I know I need to remember this and I don't mind being reminded.

Stay curious 😊



Be Respectful
Be a Learner
Be Safe
Be Caring

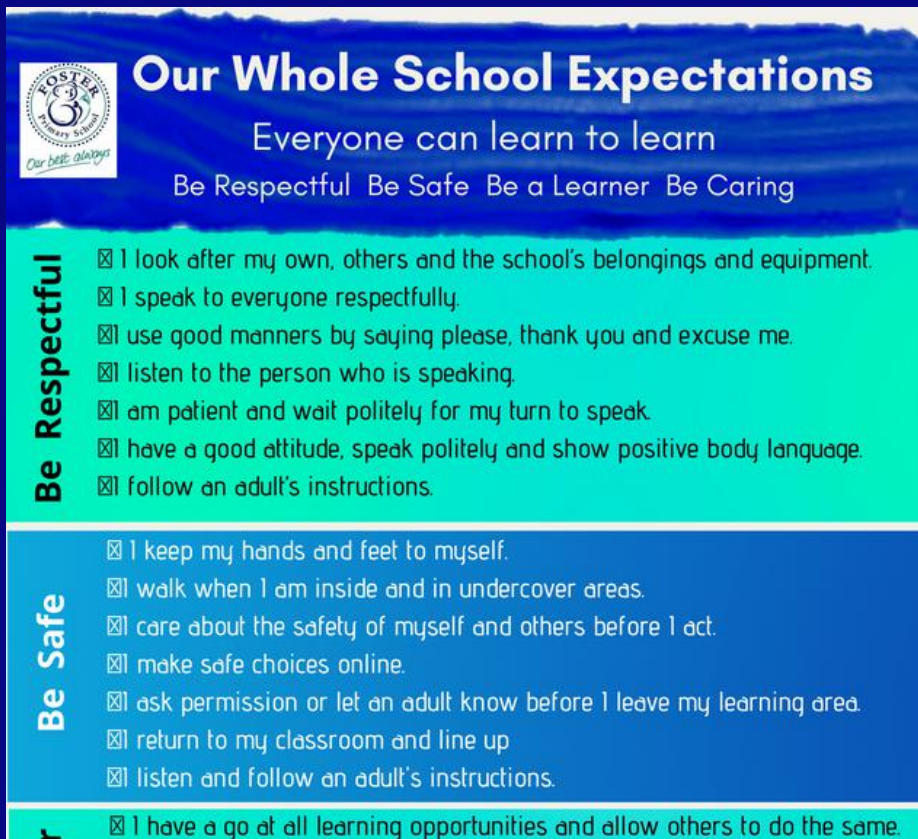


Everyone can learn to learn

School Wide Positive Behaviours

All grades have been working collaboratively on their own classroom expectations. Together they look at our values and whole school expectations and discuss what and how they might look, feel and sound like in our classrooms.

Check out these great classroom expectations.



The poster features the Foster Primary School logo on the left, which includes the motto 'Our best always'. The main title is 'Our Whole School Expectations' in large white letters. Below the title, it says 'Everyone can learn to learn' and lists the four core values: 'Be Respectful', 'Be Safe', 'Be a Learner', and 'Be Caring'. The expectations are organized into three colored sections: a pink section for 'Be Respectful', a blue section for 'Be Safe', and a green section for 'Be a Learner'. Each section contains a list of specific behaviors with checkboxes.

Be Respectful

- I look after my own, others and the school's belongings and equipment.
- I speak to everyone respectfully.
- I use good manners by saying please, thank you and excuse me.
- I listen to the person who is speaking.
- I am patient and wait politely for my turn to speak.
- I have a good attitude, speak politely and show positive body language.
- I follow an adult's instructions.

Be Safe

- I keep my hands and feet to myself.
- I walk when I am inside and in undercover areas.
- I care about the safety of myself and others before I act.
- I make safe choices online.
- I ask permission or let an adult know before I leave my learning area.
- I return to my classroom and line up.
- I listen and follow an adult's instructions.

Be a Learner

- I have a go at all learning opportunities and allow others to do the same.

Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships/School Wide Behaviour Positive Behaviour Supports – SWPBS

The RRRR program is designed to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours through the teaching of eight different topics. It teaches students how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence.

Throughout our Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships (RRRR) program, classes have been focusing on the topic of Emotional Literacy. Students in the junior grades have been learning to identify different emotions, both positive and negative, and what these might look, sound and feel like. In grades, 3-6, students have been discussing emotional triggers and how emotions change across the day. Understanding emotions, being able to read other people's emotions and respond appropriately to them, forms a key part of our daily lives.

SWPBS is a framework that we follow, which brings together our whole school community to create and maintain a Respectful, Safe and Caring Learning environment for everyone. SWPBS assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes. Our SWPBS lessons have been around our School Values of Be Respectful, Be Caring, Be a Learner and Be Safe and how they look, sound and feel in the classrooms. Building routines, positive relationships and developing a class culture around our school values has been a focus.

Attached is our whole school matrix for our expected behaviours that are displayed and used in all classrooms.

Foster Primary School welcomes the new incoming school council members:
Tiffany Wightman, Elisa Nudelman and Carolyn Wilde.
Congratulations on your appointment.

WHAT OUR EXPECTATIONS 'LOOK' LIKE IN

P/1C

Everyone can learn to learn

Be Respectful Be Safe Be a Learner Be Caring



We help everyone in our classroom by being respectful



We walk calmly around our classroom

walk when inside



We can listen to the person who is speaking during learning time



When people look like they need help, we help them



Be Respectful
Be Safe
Be a Learner
Be Caring

WHAT OUR EXPECTATIONS 'LOOK' LIKE IN

5/6J

Everyone can learn to learn

Be Respectful Be Safe Be a Learner Be Caring



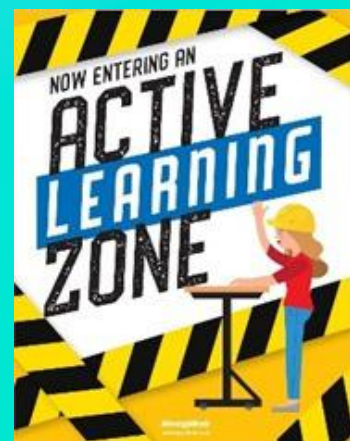
We listen to the person who is speaking and respond respectfully. We respect the opinions of others.



We use objects and things safely and for their intended purpose.



We have a go at challenges and try new things.



We are polite and we treat others how we would like to be treated.



Be Respectful
Be Safe
Be a Learner
Be Caring

WHAT OUR EXPECTATIONS 'LOOK' LIKE IN

3/4M

Everyone can learn to learn

Be Respectful Be Safe Be a Learner Be Caring



I listen to the teacher or student speaking.



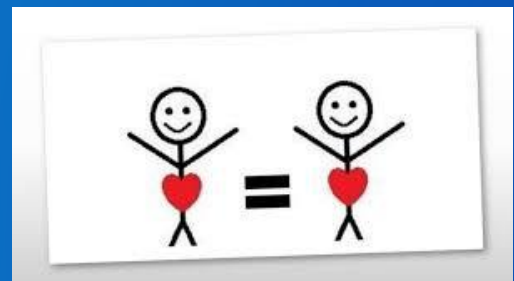
I listen and follow adult instructions.



I try my best and concentrate on my learning. I let others do their work too.



I treat others how I want to be treated. We all use bins to put rubbish in.



Be Respectful
Be Safe
Be a Learner
Be Caring

Parents & Friends Group

Planning & events for 2023:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, all parents and friends of FPS are welcome to come to our Term 1 meeting on 17th March to hear about the fundraising activities already planned for this year and to have a say in what the funds will go towards.

Currently, a high priority is to raise money for a new junior playground – this is much needed and will be a costly project. Ideas on other avenues for fundraising are welcomed. If you think there is something more pressing we need to fund, we'd love to hear about that too! Families attending the kinder with children who will come to FPS next year are also welcome to come to find out about what we do and to discuss playground ideas.

Look forward to seeing lots of new and old faces – little people (ie babies, younger siblings etc!) are always welcome to join our meetings!

Facebook:

A great way to keep in touch with parents and friends activities this year will be to join our facebook group – see over there for the link!



Parents & Friends Events

March 2023

17th P&F Term 1 meeting 9am

18th Kitchen Garden Market Stall

31st Hot Cross Bun Day



**Join the FPS
Parents&Friends
Facebook Group
to get involved
and see what we
are up to this
year!**

[Click here to join](https://www.facebook.com/groups/503984577353560)

or visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/503984577353560>

**Be Respectful
Be a Learner
Be Safe
Be Caring**

Getting started with social media

Social media platforms (like Facebook, Tik Tok and Instagram) are great for connecting with family and friends through messages, images and even videos.

But there are also risks, like seeing harmful content, being treated badly, or being sent inappropriate messages.

Three questions to ask • use app features to set limits on how much time they spend on social media

Most platforms need you to be at least 13 years

old to join. But a child also needs to be able to • learn more about being safe online using

manage the risks. Three questions to ask your eSafety's information for young people. —

child are:

• What would you do if you saw something **Dealing with issues on social** harmful online?

It is never okay for someone to be pressured,

• How can you tell if an online message or bullied or harassed online. Use The eSafety person is safe? Guide to find out how to report any problems

• Who would you go to if something bad to the social media platform. If the platform happened to you online? doesn't help, contact eSafety to help find the right support.

Help your child

The eSafety Guide on the eSafety website can help you make your child's account safe.

It is also a good idea to supervise your child when they use social media because children are more likely to ask for help when adults are interested and nearby.

Using social media safely

Talk to your child about how they want to use their account. Encourage them to:

- be kind to themselves and respectful of others
- avoid sharing details that could make it easy for someone to find them (like their school uniform or home address)



For more information about how to keep your family safe online, search for eSafety Parents on our website.

FPS Upcoming Events

2023 . MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 SCHOOL PHOTOS ASSEMBLY 2.30PM	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 ASSEMBLY 2.30PM	9	10 WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS 1.00PM	11 PROM COAST FESTIVAL
12	13 LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	14	15 NAPLAN ASSEMBLY 2.30PM SCHOOL COUNCIL	16 NAPLAN REGIONAL SWIMMING SALE	17 NAPLAN	18
19	20 NAPLAN	21 NAPLAN HARMONY DAY	22 NAPLAN ASSEMBLY 2.30PM	23 NAPLAN	24 NAPLAN	25
26	27	28	29 GR 3-6 PROM COAST CLUSTER ATHS @ FOSTER SECONDARY	30	31	

2023 . APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 DISTRICT ATHS FOSTER SC	6 LAST DAY TERM 1	7 GOOD FRIDAY	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 TERM 2 STARTS STUDENT FREE DAY	25 ANZAC DAY	26 ASSEMBLY 2.30PM	27	28 STATE SWIMMING MSAC	29
30						



Everyone can learn to learn



Kitchen News

What a great couple of weeks back we have had in the kitchen!

Our Grade 3's are settling in well and all Grade 3-6 classes have been making some amazing things.

Our garden is having a major revamp at the moment so we don't have a lot of things coming out of there just yet, so if anyone has any produce they are willing to donate to our kitchen we would be really grateful!

If you would like to help in your children's kitchen classes, just get in contact with their classroom teacher or myself to organise.



Reminder!

An important reminder regarding safety at our school

All late arrivals and early pick up of students must be logged on the iPad at the front office.

This is to ensure that, in case of an emergency, all staff are aware of student numbers onsite.

**Be Respectful
Be a Learner
Be Safe
Be Caring**



Child Safe Standards

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

The Victorian Government has announced new Child Safe Standards to further strengthen child safety across organisations, including schools. The new standards recognise the critical importance of families and the broader school community in maintaining and promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Foster Primary School has reviewed and updated our child safety policies and procedures to ensure they meet the requirements of the new standards. These are available to view on our [website](#) or a copy from the office is available upon request.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Scott Moorhouse or Sue Duggan.

Whole school Assembly

Every Wednesday @ 2.30pm in the BER Building

All parents welcome

Please remember to sign in at the office

All of our policies are available to view on our school website
<https://fosterps.vicedu.au/school-policies/>

All DET policies are available at
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal>

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Everyone can learn to learn

Wheelchair for Kids Event



Foster Primary School

Wheelchairs For Kids Event



Dear Families,

On **Friday 10th March** our School will be having a Wheelathon to support the Wheelchairs For Kids organisation.

This remarkable volunteer organisation, comprised of local retiree volunteers, and supported by the Rotary Club, produces and distributes over 300 wheelchairs per month to disabled children in third world, or developing, countries.

During our 'Wheelathon', our students will push and be pushed around the fitness track, using the wheelchairs made by the volunteers, to raise money for this organisation.

Foster Rotary will be running a sausage sizzle as a part of the event with sausages available at a cost.

Parents Club will be supplying icy poles free of charge.

Every \$200 we raise on the day buys one wheelchair.

On the reverse side of this note is a sponsorship form. Please endeavour to assist your child to find some sponsors....every little bit will help!

A schedule of events will be sent home closer to the day.

We believe that this will be a fun event, but also offers us a wonderful opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of other children.

All families and community members are welcome to join us for the event, with a chance to roll on into the Prom Coast Festival events happening in town over this long weekend.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Regards,

Scott Moorhouse

Principal

Sponsorship Forms have been sent home

If you require extra forms, please call the school office.

Foster Primary School

Wheelchairs For Kids Event

Friday 10th March 2023

SPONSORSHIP FORM *(Please return this form by Monday 6th March)*

We would greatly appreciate your support of our Wheelathon. Our students will be pushing, or be pushed, around a circuit appropriate for their age. We would estimate that each student will generally complete 10 - 20 laps of their circuit. We suggest putting a MAXIMUM amount of laps/money to be sponsored.

STUDENT'S NAME _____ YEAR LEVEL: _____

Name of Sponsor	Sponsored Amount per lap (you may wish to indicate a max amount of laps or dollar value) or Donation	This section is to be Completed after the Wheelathon	
		LAPS COMPLETED _____	
		Amount Owning	Collected



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