



9TH FEBRUARY 2024

THE NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Foster Primary School



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Scott Moorhouse

Welcome to 2024 in what promises to be a positive and academically rich year for our students at Foster Primary School. Our staff have been working hard in setting up a positive, organised, routine based structure so that every student has the opportunity to thrive at FPS in 2024. Over the first two days staff have engaged in professional development with Penny Solomon and Sue McLaren around setting consistent expectations in class. We also explored the use of 'circle time' in all classrooms at our school with the goal to implement this in every class room twice per week (I'll talk about this later). The staff were also able to ask questions and work with our new school organisational design which now see's two distinct groups formed within the school where teaching improvement and school issues can be resolved with more speed. Staff also spent time on our focus on Maths for 2024 and beyond with Miss Jane Power presenting the agreed direction of this work to our teachers and ES members. This work begins with staff prioritising time for collaboration in planning and planning in a common way to ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum. There are many initiatives in 2024 that I will share with you.



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

1. Focus on orderly conduct.

Our leadership team (Mr. Moorhouse, Miss Bell, Miss Power, Miss Wanklyn, Miss Young and Miss Duggan) met and discussed what we would like to see as 'non negotiables' within our school this year.

All students are expected to follow the following rules.

- Follow an adult's instructions the first time. (makes for clear expectations around staying safe, learning and assisting with the good order at FPS)
- Eating is done inside. All eating will be done inside or in one of the two designated eat spots. No exceptions. No rubbish should be in the yard at all. This includes Breakfast Club (Tuesdays)
- All Students will move around the school in an orderly manner. This means lining up, students moving together and waiting patiently for teachers.
- Keep our hands and feet to ourselves. This goes without saying – students should not be hurt by another in any way.
- Should things happen in the yard use the 'No, Go Tell' system. This means say No! Leave (Go from) the situation and tell an adult. The school is only good at responding to social issues if we know. Please encourage your child to let a staff member know or relay their feeling via a phone form yourselves.

1.Circle Time.

This is occurring in classrooms twice per week on a Monday and Thursday. This gives each child a chance to have a voice about things that are happening in the yard, classroom or socially that members of the class and the teachers can assist in solving the problem.

This is done through game play and a whole language approach. This also fits with our Social and Emotional Learning curriculum.

2.Numeracy.

Numeracy is a very large focus for us over the next few years.

Our staff have committed to upskilling themselves in many areas for this. Numeracy is run for a minimum of 4 hours per week and is clearly an area in which our school can improve. This is lead by Jane Power and Sue Duggan who are undertaking so rigorous work with our staff to improve student outcomes in this area. You will see over the course of the year updates on this improvement initiative.



Everyone can learn to learn

IMPORTANT DATES

February 2024

13th, 14th, 15th -
Grade 3-6 Water Safety Program

13th Welcome Back Breakfast
All Welcome

16th - House Swimming Carnival
Grade 3-6

17th Farmers Market Stall

23rd - District Swimming

29th - School Photo Day

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NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

3. Monitoring

Leadership has undertaken to spend far more time in classrooms to really see what is 'under the hood' of the teaching and learning at Foster Primary School. Myself, Jane, Sue, Jenny, Chantelle and Andrea are all using the mantra 'seek to understand' over the next semester to see where the teaching and learning areas are that we can get improvement from. It is fair to say that the review has now given us 'permission' to do this work and we are all very excited by the prospect.

4. Organisational Structure.

Foster Primary School has a new organisational structure (attached). This shows who is in the school leadership team and demonstrates who is responsible for what within our school. I will talk a little more about this in future editions.

In other news:

Stocky

Stocky has found a new home. Stocky unfortunately had a form of distraction syndrome that despite several professionals working alongside him could not correct this behaviour. Stocky is residing with a family in the Yarra Ranges where he is a companion to two autistic children. I had the honour of meeting this family and they will take good care of him. He will also be their companion at a Special School one day per week.

Wellbeing

Jo will continue to work in wellbeing across most days of the week. However, this will mainly be at the beginning and end of days. In order for Jo to meet with the students, they will need to put their name in the box outside her office. If parents would like to meet with Jo please phone and make an appointment.

Attendance

This is a region wide priority. In 2023 about 35% of students at FPS had more than 20 days of absence for a range of reasons. At 20 days this equates to 1 day per fortnight which is a lot of missed learning. We encourage all children to get to school as often as possible and ask parents to expect children to attend school unless there is ill health. Look out for some initiatives coming in 2024 to encourage student participation in school.



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March 2024

1st - Division Swimming

11th Labour Day Holiday

13th NAPLAN begins

14th Regional Swimming

21st Harmony Day

27th Prom Coast Division Sport

28th Last day of term

2024 Term Dates

29th January - 28th March

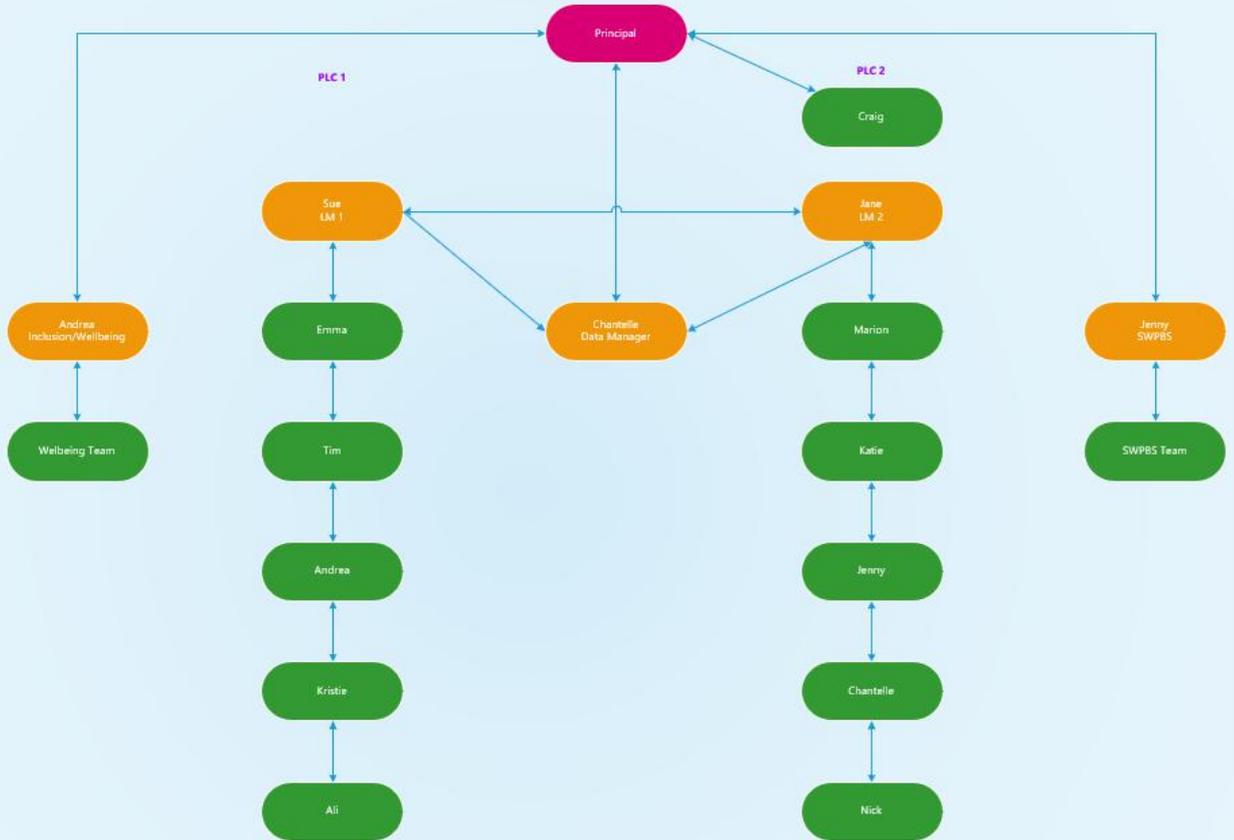
15th April - 28th June

15th July - 20th September

7th October - 20th December

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Organisational Design 2024



Foster Primary School Organisational Design 2024

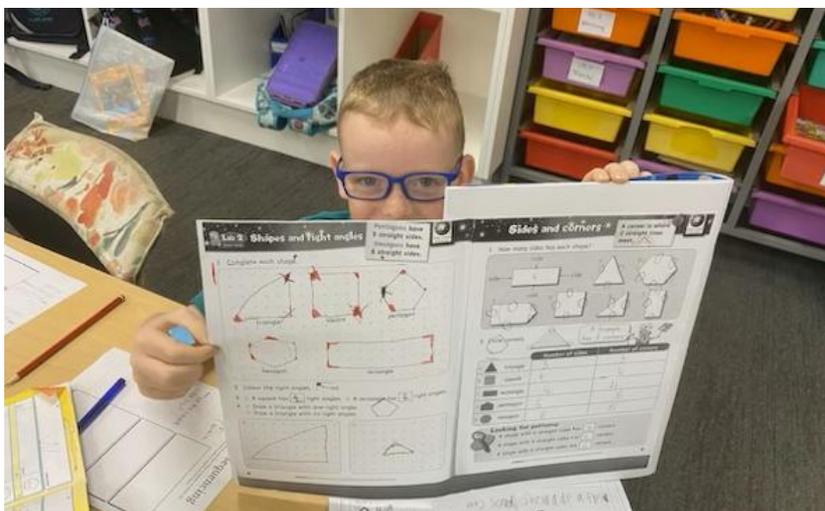
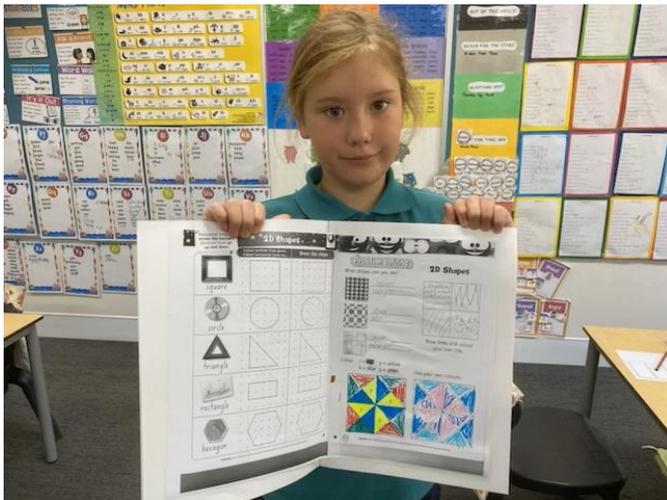
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Classroom News...

This week in 2/3 D we have been learning about sequencing in literacy. We found out that sequencing means putting things in order. We have been practicing recounting events from narratives and putting them in order to help us understand the story better. In numeracy, we have been learning about 2D shapes. We've talked about how 2D shapes mean 2 dimensional shapes and that the two dimension we are measuring are length and height. We have also discovered that how ever many sides you have in a 2D shape, you will have the same number of corners such as a triangle has 3 sides and 3 corners or a pentagon has 5 sides and 5 corners.



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Classroom News...

3/4Y and 2/3M have had a great start to 2024.

We are excited to have Miss Moore back and we also welcome Ms Crynes back who is teaching 2/3M on Thursdays and Fridays for Term 1.

Everyone is settling in nicely. It has been a pleasure to see everyone's smiling faces back at school.

For the last few weeks, we have been swimming.

Everyone is trying hard to learn how to swim; we did very well in swimming.

We are learning a lot.

By Josie & Adele

On Tuesday the 6th of February I made chips with Larissa for my Life Skills Program. We had to cut up the potatoes, boil them in a big pot and drain them. We had to do this four times because we were cooking a lot of chips.

Then we put the chips in the oven to finish cooking, we added some oil, salt and pepper and drained them on baking paper. Then I made my own sauce, it was a honey barbecue sauce. We added some honey to a barbecue sauce to make this. They took a long time to cook. I did most of the cutting, and it was hard to cut all the chips the same size. I enjoyed cooking the chips. I have been cooking for my Life Skills for 1 year and 1 week.

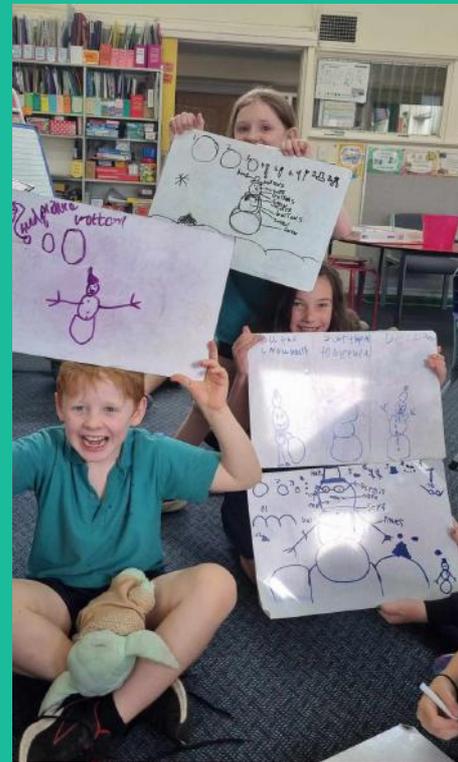
So far, making chips has been my favourite dish.

By Callum

Last week we started school and spent time getting used to the classroom and making new friends. This week we started swimming. We are all excited, but a little nervous for the swimming carnival. There are two swimming teachers, Ernie & Maron, that help us with our swimming.

We have all been having fun and enjoying 3/4Y.

By Jessica & Jessie



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Classroom News...

The Second week of school, Mr Carver and our whole class were looking for a song to play, and we chose Happier by Marshmallow. Mr Carver is the music teacher and art teacher. He said that for the start we can play on keyboards, ukuleles, marimbas and xylophone. I was on ukulele and Celeste was on marimba for the first round. After, I went on a keyboard and Celeste was on xylophone. It went until we had a go of all of them, but the bell went for lunch, so that meant we had to get our lunch and sit back down on the floor.

By Kseniia and Celeste.

PE is great, we play games with our teacher Mr. Cooper. We do the fitness track all the time. We also play frisbee cone and dodge ball. He is very good at teaching sport and ball skills. I really like doing the Beep Test because we get to see our improvements.

By Leo and Isaac

At Foster Primary School, we learn to do P.E. We've been doing the fitness track. Most of us love P.E but some of us like it and some of us don't like it very much. Sometimes we do the beep test, some people don't like it that much because it is a bit challenging. P.E is short for physical education that helps our body exercise when we need it. We have been doing tennis practice by hitting a ball against a wall.

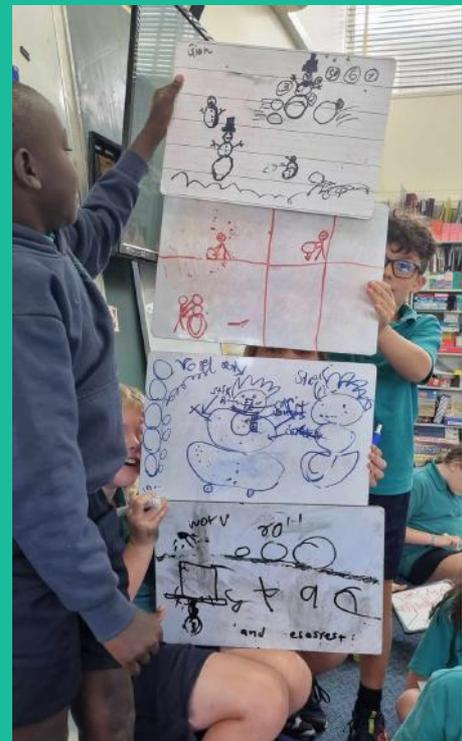
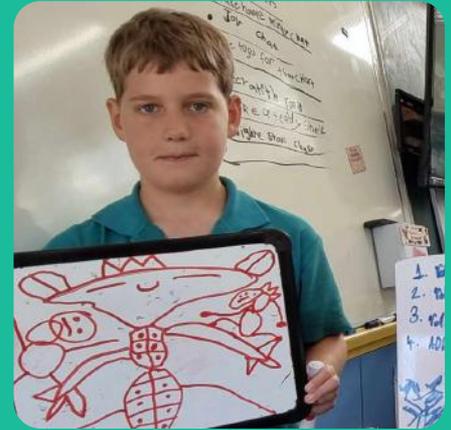
By Neave and Mackayla

Mr. Carver is our Art teacher, he is funny. He loves meeting new people and loves making new stuff each day.

He is very nice when it comes to helping.

He has very thoughtful ideas.

From Matilda and Ivy.



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Classroom News...

In 3/4Y for writing we have done an inspiration page in our writing book. The inspiration page is what you are inspired by. We have done a number that is a three or a four and it has different things that you could write about, for example write to your teacher, what sparks my interest, the area I shine in, a place I have visited, about my family and unique facts about me. We have also done some writing to put up in our room that we are using to set up goal with.

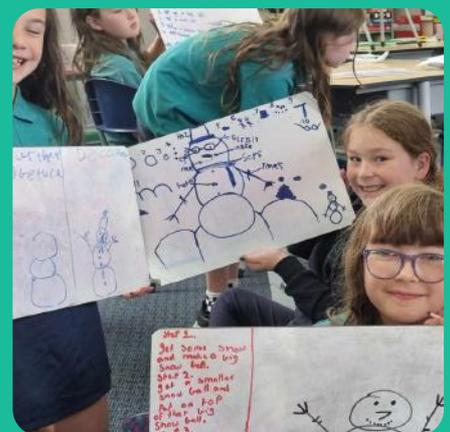
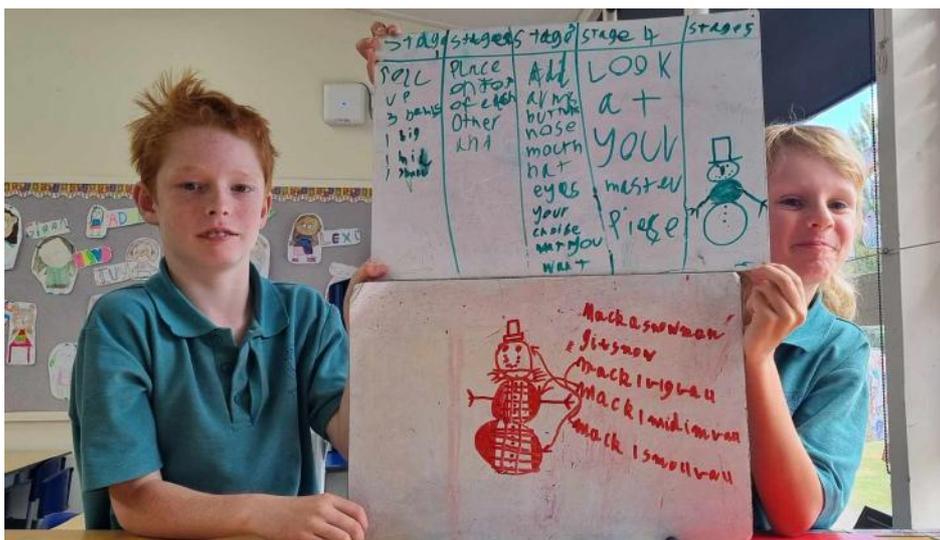
By Jesinta and Lexi

Some interesting facts from 2/3M

- Frankie is enjoying making new friends in the classroom
- Jobe likes that he is learning new words from his reading.
- Fletcher loves his PE sessions with Mr. Cooper.

Everyone is having a great time and we are looking forward to the rest of the term.

Ms Young and Miss Moore



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Classroom News...

Welcome back to the 2024 school year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holidays and enjoyed some quality time with family and friends.

It has been a busy start to the year with our Grade 3-6 swimming program kicking off this week. The students have approached our sessions with enthusiasm and have been giving everything a go. Let's hope this fabulous weather sticks around till the end of the program next week!

In 5/6J we have been settling into our classroom routines and getting to know each other. We enjoyed a fantastic Kitchen session with Katrina this week making some tasty zucchini fritters, delicious tomato relish, a fresh side salad and some scrumptious apple and rhubarb muffins.

We also joined the other BER classes last Friday for our first Free Write Friday. All students enjoyed the opportunity to write a narrative of their choice or a recount about their holidays. They also enjoyed being able to work alongside their peers from the other classes.

Katie, Jane, Ali, Marion & Chantelle



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Science news...

Science News

This week in Science all grades have been discussing materials, their properties and why they are chosen to make different things.

We have explored the school finding objects and structures that are made of common materials, and discussed why that particular material is suitable, and what would happen if we used a different material. What might happen if our clothes were made of hard plastic instead of fabric? What if the monkey bars were made of fabric instead of metal? The senior classes have discussed natural and processed materials and the differences between them. They have been introduced to vocabulary to describe the properties of materials, and sorted a range of materials according to their properties (such as flexible, brittle and waterproof.)



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Annual Privacy Policy reminder...

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the School's Privacy Policy and the School's Privacy Collection Notice. https://fosterps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Privacy_Collection_Notice.pdf

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

<https://fosterps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Photographing-filming-recording%2Fstudents-policy-2022.pdf>

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use

[Arc | Software | Google Workspace for Education](#) (educationapps.vic.gov.au)

safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using use

[Arc | Software | Google Workspace for Education](#) (educationapps.vic.gov.au) please contact the school.

Dear Parent / Carers of Grade 5 & 6 Students,
There is an opportunity for your child to participate in the "Somers Camp" 16th - 24th April 2024

Please follow the link and contact the camp directly if you require any further information.

somers-camp (somersschoolcamp.org)



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Volunteers needed please...

Farmers Market Volunteers needed.....

2024 brings a new year and exciting outlook for the Foster Primary School stall at the monthly Foster Farmers Market!

We are always looking for volunteers to help run the market stall on the third Saturday of every month.

Duties include selling, cooking, and serving bacon and egg rolls and sausages in bread, plus managing the famous chocolate brownie, dhal, and other goodies the garden and kitchen program can rustle up!

The BBQ and equipment will all be on site ready for the volunteers to step in for the fun stuff.

Typically, the market runs from 8am to 12pm, and it's a great opportunity and environment for your kids to come and help and get some experience chatting with customers and handling money.

Not to mention there's always a few minutes to step out and check out what the other awesome stalls have available.

The dates of the market days are as follows:

Saturday Feb 17th

Saturday March 16th

Saturday April 20th

Saturday May 18th

Saturday June 15th

Saturday July 20th

Saturday August 17th

Saturday September 21st

Saturday October 19th

Saturday November 16th

Saturday December 21st

The profits of this market all support our wonderful kitchen and garden program, which may not be possible without this extra contribution.

Please get in touch with Stephanie Matthews on 0410781771 with your availability!

We appreciate your support! Thank you.

PS, if anyone has any goods or ideas, they would like to donate to the market stall to raise extra money we are always open to fresh ideas - so let us know!

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Upcoming Events



Welcome back to school breakfast

Tuesday 13th February @ 8.30am

Come along, enjoy a delicious Egg & Bacon Roll. Its a great opportunity to meet up with the school community.

All school families are welcome

Meet at the school canteen

We hope to see you there !

2024 February

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
12	13 8.30AM SCHOOL BREAKFAST-ALL WELCOME GRADE 3-6 WATER SAFETY @ FOSTER POOL	14 GRADE 3-6 WATER SAFETY @ FOSTER POOL NO PREPS AT SCHOOL	15 GRADE 3-6 WATER SAFETY @ FOSTER POOL 6.30 SCHOOL COUNCIL	16 GRADE 3-6 CARNIVAL DAY 2.30-ASSEMBLY	17 FOSTER FARMERS MARKET	18
19	20	21 NO PREPS AT SCHOOL	22	23 NEWSLETTER DAY 2.20-ASSEMBLY SCHOOL LEADERS BADGE PRESENTATION	24	25
26	27	28 NO PREPS AT SCHOOL	29 29TH SCHOOL PHOTO DAY			

2024 March

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 NEWSLETTER DAY 2.30-ASSEMBLY	9	10
11 LABOUR DAY	12	13 NAPLAN	14 NAPLAN GIPPSLAND SWIMMING REGIONAL @ SALE	15 NAPLAN 2.30-ASSEMBLY	16 FOSTER FARMERS MARKET	17
18 NAPLAN	19 NAPLAN	20 NAPLAN	21 NAPLAN HARMONY DAY	22 NAPLAN NEWSLETTER DAY 2.30-ASSEMBLY	23	24
25 NAPLAN	26	27 "PROM COAST" DIVISION SPORT @ FOSTER SEC COLLEGE	28 LAST DAY OF TERM 1 2.30-ASSEMBLY FINISH TIME-TBC	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30	31 EASTER SUNDAY



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