

Deans Marsh Primary School

No 1642



PARENTS' INFORMATION BOOK 2023-2024



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School No. 1642
30 Lorne Road, Deans Marsh 3235

Deans Marsh is a wonderful place with unique nature and wildlife. Our school wishes to acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Gadubanud people. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.

Welcome to Deans Marsh Primary School.

Deans Marsh Primary School is a wonderful school! As a family school we want our students to know we care and that their needs are being met. We have a strong learning community that values the opportunity for all young people to flourish within our innovative and caring environment, and a strong commitment to providing student learning outcomes in English and Maths. Our teaching and learning program is implemented by our highly professional teachers and support staff who work in collaborative Professional Learning Teams to provide a stimulating, enjoyable and challenging learning environment.

Our rich educational program provides a wide range of opportunities and experiences, and is complemented by our whole school 1:1 iPad/netbook program and specialist programs including Indonesian, Music and Choir, Kitchen Garden, Library and Art. Our Year 3-6 camping program, sporting teams and whole school swimming program encourages strong participation and connectedness to our school. Our well-resourced facilities and attractive play spaces stimulate curiosity, ingenuity, and inquiry in order to foster a spirit of discovery and enjoyment of learning. Teachers help students to experience the joy of the struggle: The happiness and pride that comes from achieving something special.

Our core school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are complimented by the Restorative Practices program. We are proud of our strong family partnerships and encourage involvement from parents and community members in our programs.

The Deans Marsh Primary School community values all its members and creates a supportive and challenging learning environment. As well as English and Mathematics we also provide a varied learning curriculum including inquiry learning, STEM, health and Physical Education.

This booklet is provided to give helpful information to first time prep parents, and also to those coming from other schools. If there are any questions unanswered after reading this, you are welcome to make an appointment to talk with a teacher or myself. We will happily make time for you.

Russell Taylor-Shaw
PRINCIPAL

ABOUT US

Our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience together with the Restorative Justice principles underpin all that we do within the school environment. These values support our students in becoming positive and active citizens within their community. Our goal is to engage all staff, students and families in working together as a learning community dedicated to caring and support with positive expectations for all students.

Located in the foothills of the Otway Ranges we have a long and proud history of serving the rural community. The school population is drawn from the township of Deans Marsh and surrounding areas. The physical facilities of the school consist of a senior learning centre, junior learning studio, kitchen/music room and art room. In addition, the school has spacious shaded grounds including two ovals, playgrounds providing safe and creative play, tennis/basketball court, walking track, orchard, veggie garden and hen house. The school provides a comprehensive curriculum with a range of other programs that enrich the core curriculum including choir, concert, musical performances, camps, swimming, excursions, interschool sports and environmental education. The school continues to provide a stimulating learning environment that nurtures independent learners where positive self-esteem is fostered in a supportive classroom environment.

The school operates three multi age classes the Kookaburras, Cockatoos and King Parrots, in modern teaching and learning spaces where teachers deliver the curriculum working in teams. We strive to make sure our classrooms are attractive learning environments. All children have access to a range of fiction and non-fiction reading materials in school, as well as displays relating to English and Mathematics. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children.

Deans Marsh Primary School operates a very successful Kitchen Garden program based on the Stephanie Alexander model. We grow fresh vegetables and fruit with the aim to help children understand the many benefits of "growing our own". Other aims include:

- Discovering where our food comes from.
- Observing the life cycle of a little seed through to harvest.
- Trying different food with friends and discovering that it tastes great!

With the support of School Council and parents we commenced a 1:1 iPad environment in 2014. This was expanded to a 1:1 netbook program in 2021 for our grade 5/6 students. With every child having an iPad or netbook, they have immediate access to up-to-date touch screen devices allowing for learning to take place anywhere and at any time.

Our school goals as stated in the 2021-2025 School Strategic Plan are:

1. Student Achievement:

Maximise the learning growth of each student.

2. Student Engagement:

Improve student engagement in learning.

3. Student Wellbeing:

Strengthen the health and wellbeing of all students.

SCHOOL VALUES

In 2017 our school chose 3 core school values to underpin all that we say and do at school. These are: respect, responsibility and resilience.

We use this model to support our school values:

1. DEFINE- clear and concise definition of behaviour expectations
2. TEACH- direct teaching of behaviour expectations
3. REMIND- daily reminders & supervision
4. CELEBRATE- consistent acknowledgement of the expected behaviours
5. CORRECT- consistent correction of the problem behaviours



Our School Values Expectations Matrix was created in 2019 by staff, students and parents and helps to define our values and guide the expectations we place on each other. This leads to staff and students seeing opportunities to celebrate and acknowledge these behaviours through our whole school rewards system: Marsh On Points. Marsh On is a term used for our school-wide award program. We have a wonderful school with students who display outstanding behaviour and Marsh On points are an acknowledgment of this behaviour. Students are awarded Marsh On points when they are recognised by their teachers and/or peers for displaying the school values. The Marsh On points a student receives add together throughout the year, and the student receives recognition at assembly when they reach a milestone of...

100 points	250 points	500 points	750 points	1,000 points
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We value student voice as a means of improving student engagement, wellbeing, and quality instruction. Our staff use a variety of methods to monitor student satisfaction and supporting student voice for this, as one size does not fit all. Sharing circles in the classroom are an effective method our teachers use for sharing (and some case airing) issues after a recess or lunch break.

These values are explored in our health curriculum and reinforced through a variety of school programs. Some of these programs are...

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

The Respectful Relationships program supports our school to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours. This weekly program operates from Prep to Year 6 and teaches our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence. Staff are all trained and highly skilled in delivering the Respectful Relationships curriculum and supporting a Respectful Relationships school.

RESILIENCE PROJECT

Helping children build resilience is a valuable gift. Resilience is being able to manage your day to day life and to recover from set-backs and adversity. A lack of resilience can lead to depression, anxiety, stress and low self-esteem and struggles with school. We are an Official Partnership Program School with the Resilience Project, which involves ongoing support of staff, students and the community and links to the education department curriculum and our school values.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Each year, our students are involved in activities around bullying themes during Anti Bullying Week. We link this program to our school values and Deans Marsh way. This year our week culminated in students writing a personal pledge on a whole school anti bullying banner, which we unveiled at our school assembly.

BATFORCE

Our ongoing partnership with the Batforce program is based around supporting students from small rural schools to transition to larger secondary schools. This is a valuable program for our Year 6 students and takes place in Term 4.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Is a participatory and democratic justice that focuses on the community defined by the incident and not just the offender.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Those approaches and practices which “seek to heal and put right the wrongs”.



STAFF PROFILE

The Staff for 2023 are:

Mr Russell Taylor-Shaw	Principal
Miss Vanessa Chant	Grade P/1 Teacher (The Kookaburras)
Mr Morgan Eastwood	Grade 2/3/4 Teacher (The Cockatoos)
Ms Renee Gauthier	Grade 5/6 Teacher (The King Parrots)
Mrs Emily McDonald	Tutoring & Accelerated Learning
Mrs Kylie Permezel	Business Manager
Mrs Veronica Phillips	Kitchen Garden Assistant
Mrs Belinda Ferrari	Kitchen Garden Assistant
Ms Terri Burns	Grounds person
Mr David Drayton	School Cleaner

Specialists:

Ms Jo Kara-Cozens	Art Teacher
Ms Kristin Mackinlay	Library Teacher
Bu Julienne Welsh	Indonesian Teacher

School Council:

Mrs Caroline Shelbourne	President
Mrs Liza Bush	Vice-President
Council Members:	Mrs Leza Clissold, Ms Anna O'Brien, Ms Helen Knight, Ms Kirilee Wilson, Mrs Virginia Morton, Mr Morgan Eastwood, Mrs Kylie Permezel and Mr Russell Taylor-Shaw

SCHOOL TIMES

Our school recognises and values the need for regular “brain & body” breaks for students in order to break up their day of learning. We use a unique timetable to support this, with more frequent and shorter breaks, meaning more chances to eat snacks, visit the bathroom, get some fresh air and stay connected with peers socially.

Yard Supervision begins for students arriving at school	8:45am
School day begins	9:00am
<i>Session 1: Reading</i>	9:00 – 10:00am
“Fruit Snack” recess 1	10:00 – 10:15am
<i>Session 2: Writing</i>	10:15 – 11:15am
“Morning Tea” recess 2	11:15 – 11:30am
<i>Session 3: Mathematics</i>	11:30am – 12:30pm
“Lunch time” 30 min break	12:30 – 1:00pm
<i>Session 4: Inquiry Learning</i>	1:00 – 2:00pm
“Afternoon Tea” recess	2:00 – 2:15pm
<i>Session 5: Health & Wellbeing</i>	2:15 – 3:15pm
School day finishes	3:15pm

Assembly is held at 3:00pm on Friday afternoons.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
First Term	27 January – 6 April	29 January – 28 March
Second Term	24 April – 23 June	15 April – 28 June
Third Term	10 July – 15 September	15 July – 20 September
Fourth Term	2 October – 20 December	7 October – 20 December

The first day of term 1 is a pupil free day with classes commencing on Monday 30th January 2023 and Tuesday 30th January 2024. The last day of Term 1, 2 and 3 ends at 2.15pm unless otherwise advised. Parents will be advised of Term 4 finishing time.

PREP INFORMATION

The prep year is a very important one. It is during this time that your child settles into habits and routines which will help guide his/her learning throughout school.

Foundation (Prep) states what it is – a preparatory year. It is one of many experiences and activities on which future learning is based. However, much of the learning cannot be measured and in many cases is unseen.

Within a caring, friendly atmosphere, your child will be encouraged to try their best to progress through the early stages of reading, writing and mathematics.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SCHOOL



Encourage a positive attitude by making cheerful comments about school. If you are positive, your child will feel happy and relaxed.

READING

Home reading is an expectation from prep to Year 6 and is supported and actively encouraged by classroom teachers. When your child brings home their first book, share the excitement with them. At first, they will “read” by remembering the sentence pattern or by looking at the pictures. This is a natural stage in learning to read. As they learn to understand more about reading they will use the print message. The most important thing is to make sense of what they read. If what they read does not make sense, ask “Does that sound right?” or prompt by saying “Look at the picture”. Ask questions that will give a clue to the meaning.

At the beginning of the year, your child will be provided with a reader pocket and a reading diary.

The reading diary keeps a record of your child’s reading. Parents are asked to listen to their child read each night and write the name of the book in the diary. Comments are also welcome. Please ensure the reader comes to school every day.

The diary also contains information about assisting reading and is worth taking some time to read.

By praising their efforts and sharing their books, we aim to make reading a positive and enjoyable experience for children.

NUMERACY

Deans Marsh Primary School runs a consistent and engaging maths program, full of “real-life” links and hands-on experiences. Try to develop your child’s sense of number, height, width, volume, area, mass/weight and time, find maths everywhere. Involve your child in real life calculating around the home, such as counting change, adding up amounts/numbers, measuring, estimating and so on. Encourage older children to take up hobbies that require “hands on” mathematical skills and a sense of spatial relationships – making models, assembling kits, jigsaws. Have a calculator in the house and introduce games that lead to the discovery of some of the fascinating properties of number. Don’t think maths is either a mystery or a text book exercise, it is about solving problems in the real world. So pursue these basic questions – “Am I seizing every opportunity to use maths around the home? Am I calculating wherever the need arises?”

Where can I find mathematical situations?

- | | |
|------------|---|
| TOYS | - Jigsaws, construction toys. |
| GAMES | - Card games, board games. |
| TRAVELLING | - Guess the colour of the second/third car you pass. |
| | - Guess the number of white posts, telephone poles, shops you pass between kilometre posts. |
| | - Number plates – the first to find two numbers the same, consecutive numbers, largest total, all add up to 17. |
| | - Colours – tally the cars with the same colours between certain points, draw colours and see who wins. |
| | - Spotto – List 10-20 things your child has to find. |
| | - Estimation – How long to travel between towns? Petrol costs? Food Costs? |
| WALKING | - Discuss what you see – clouds, shadows, buildings, rocks, trees, plants, animals. |

FIRST DAY

On the first day of school, make your way to your child's classroom where you will be greeted by the teacher and your child's buddy, the children will be shown where to put their bags at around 8.45 am. All the children will go to assembly, which is held in the P/1/2 room or the undercover area, with the prep children in the front row. After this, children will go to their classrooms. We then ask you to leave soon after, as it is felt that children settle down more quickly without their parents being present. It is suggested that parents may like to catch up for a coffee when they leave. Please ensure your child knows who will be taking him/her home.

Prep children tend to become very tired during the first few weeks, and therefore they will only attend school for four (4) days each week during February – on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, ie Wednesday will be a stay at home/rest day.

Prep testing occurs during the first few weeks and includes English and Maths. Students will be required to attend school for one hour on a designated Wednesday. This is to give teachers an insight into students learning with information used to plan the learning program for them. More information is sent out during term 1.

FOR THE PARENTS

We all act differently to our children starting school – relief that we will have a bit of time, worry about how our child will settle in, grief that in some way we are losing part of our child to an 'unknown.' All these feelings and more are quite normal and because our lives are not identical, none of us will feel exactly the same way. Some parents are quite surprised at how little or much they do feel. We have to remember, especially if this is our first child at school that this is a new era for ourselves as well. If however you do feel anxious – feel free to talk to your child's teacher. It is also good to talk to other parents. We have all been through the experience and are happy to share yours.

PMP

A Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) operates in our Kookaburras (P-2) class as a strategy to assist the development of children's gross motor skills and therefore assist with the development of fine motor skills, essential in the learning of reading and writing.

The PMP program is not a remedial program but is intended as a school based program to be conducted with 5-7 year olds in the first three years of formal schooling. Students are given experiences at five different activities each session. One station each session is "eye tracking". The other four stations are planned to include key motor outcomes plus a perception outcome and a skill outcome so that every area is covered every session.



TRANSITION PROGRAM

Starting school is a major life transition for children and their families. To assist and familiarise families with our school and its routines, we will be running a comprehensive transition program that is outlined on the next page.

<p><u>Session 1</u> Immersion Day</p> <p>Date - TBA 9.00am - 11.30am</p>	<p>STUDENT ACTIVITIES</p> <p>On this day your child will be immersed into the school environment by taking part in a games session. Please enter and drop your child at the Kookaburras Learning Centre at 8.55am, where your child's buddy and teacher will meet you.</p> <p>FOR THE PARENTS</p> <p>There is the opportunity for families to share specific questions or concerns with the Principal after drop off. Otherwise, please be back at 11:15am for an 11.30am pick up.</p>
<p><u>Session 2</u> Orientation Day</p> <p>Date - TBA 11:30am - 3:15pm</p>	<p>STUDENT ACTIVITIES</p> <p>On this day your child will enjoy spending time orientating themselves in their classroom. This session will include classroom activities, including a craft task to bring home. Again, please enter and drop your child at the Kookaburras Learning Centre at 11:30am, where your child's 2021 buddy and teacher will meet you.</p> <p>FOR THE PARENTS</p> <p>There is the opportunity for families to share specific questions or concerns with the Principal after pick up at 3:15pm.</p>
<p><u>Session 3</u> Transition Day</p> <p>Date - TBA 9:00am - 3.15pm</p>	<p>STUDENT ACTIVITIES</p> <p>On this day your child will visit their classroom for a whole day of activities designed to help them transition to school. Your child will also be introduced to all of their 2023 classmates. Bus students may travel to school on the bus.</p> <p>FOR THE PARENTS</p> <p>If not travelling home by school bus, we invite families to be back at 3pm to observe their child working in their classroom and to hear about the day's activities before a 3.15pm pick up.</p>

The Deans Marsh Primary School community welcomes all families and looks forward to meeting students and parents during the transition program. Please keep this letter handy, so that you can check the various dates and times of school transition events. We strongly encourage families to attend all sessions. Please send your child with a drink bottle and food (snack for session 1, and lunch also for sessions 2 and 3) in a backpack. Please include any medications and it may be worth also packing a spare pair of clothes in case of an accident.

The school operates a buddy program between new prep children and a grade 6 child to ensure a smooth transition between kinder and school. Your child's buddy will spend time with them at kinder early in term 4 before the transition days commence.

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

- **Lunch and Drink** - Try to pack according to your child's appetite - a 'trial run' during the holidays may help to determine the quantity. Ask your child to bring home any uneaten food to help you gauge their needs.

We have a snack time and a lunch time. Please wrap this separately to avoid confusion. It may be helpful to cut fruit eg oranges, in half. Lunch wrap is easier to undo than gladwrap although we encourage rubbish free lunches. A frozen drink on hot days is popular. We also have a fruit snack at about 10am so please enclose something that is easy to eat and not messy.

- **Change of clothes** - including underwear, in a plastic bag in case of an accident.
- **School bag** – Choose a bag which is easy to open, durable and easy to handle. It should have ample room for a lunch box, jumper, reader cover (foolscap size) and other articles. Please ensure your child's name is on the bag and/or they can recognise their bag.

CLOTHING

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Uniforms are compulsory, and comprise :

Summer

Red and white gingham dress OR
Red polo shirt or sports polo & navy shorts
Navy school windcheater

Winter

Red polo shirt or sports polo
Navy blue tracksuit pants
Navy school windcheater

Sports Day

Red polo shirt or sports polo
Navy shorts
White socks and Runners

School windcheaters, dresses, and polo shirts can be purchased from the office. School windcheaters, polar fleece vests and sports polo shirts are embroidered and must be purchased from the school. Other items may be purchased elsewhere.

Grade 6 Uniform: Grade 6 students design a polo shirt and windcheater which may be purchased to wear during their last year of primary school.

SCHOOL HATS

It is school policy that sunhats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. This may be extended if recommended by Sunsmart. A school hat is supplied free of charge to all new children enrolling at the school and the hats will stay at school. Please be 'Sun Smart' with your child and put sunscreen on them even on overcast days. There is a sunscreen dispenser at school, located outside the staffroom for people to use.

FOOTWEAR

For safety reasons, thongs are not allowed. Shoes, sandals or sandshoes are fine for summer; in winter gumboots or pull-on sturdy boots may be more practical as the children are required to remove their shoes before entering all learning spaces. Pull-ons or velcro fastenings are easy to manage, especially for the younger ones who cannot yet tie their shoelaces. Slippers are also encouraged and supported during winter for use in the classroom.

LABELLING

Please make sure all belongings are **clearly named**. This includes all items of clothing especially coats and windcheaters, hats, socks, shoes, lunch boxes and lids, drink bottles, pencils, books, EVERYTHING!! We suggest regular checks on names because with constant washing, the writing washes off and tags become lost.



LOST PROPERTY

All unclaimed clothing and other property is gathered and put in a box near the office. You are encouraged to check this box for lost items. All unclaimed clothing at the end of the year will be donated to a charity.

ART SMOCK & APRON

An art smock, cooking apron and science coat are provided to children during relevant classes. There is no need for parents to provide these items.



Students may ride to school and keep their horses in the school's pony paddock

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is aligned to the Victorian Curriculum. It is balanced across academic and personal growth, and is focused on engaging young learners to achieve their highest potential.

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship. The Victorian Curriculum F-10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.

A strong emphasis is placed on the value of English and Maths throughout the curriculum. English and Maths is fully integrated into all theme work in which children are engaged.

We work towards giving children all the life skills they need to prepare them for making positive contributions to society, and our teaching and learning practice encourages students to go deeper in their understanding and relate learning experiences to real life situations.

Strong foundations in English, Mathematics, Languages, Science, Technologies and the Capabilities are recognised by the staff as key to each child's future.

The inquiry based learning approach builds upon students' prior knowledge to promote high student learning and engagement. This approach is linked to the Victorian Curriculum with topics related to the areas of Science, History, Geography and Technology.

There is strong evidence that students become more engaged in learning when they have opportunities to:

- Exercise agency in their own learning
- Contribute to the communities in which they learn
- Improve the learning program for themselves and their peers



ENGLISH

The English Curriculum focuses on Reading and Viewing, Writing, Speaking and Listening. We encourage making meaning of text and language through a variety of teaching approaches. These include integrating the key features of grammar, phonics, spelling, punctuation and genres in the areas of speaking and listening, reading, writing and interpreting various text types.

At Deans Marsh Primary School the daily Literacy Block incorporates two hours of Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening. Our main aims are to develop a love of literacy and prepare students so they can participate actively and effectively in a literate world.

Reading and viewing is a valued and empowering activity which enables students to construct meaning and make sense of their world. The school provides a positive reading environment to encourage students to value reading and support their reading development. Students are involved in a range of engaging reading tasks, have access to a wide variety of texts and are taught reading behaviours through modelling and demonstration. Teachers work with students to develop their reading strategies and comprehension skills.



Writing is a way of communicating through a process of constructing messages and representing ideas, feelings and information in print. During the writing block students investigate and write a range of text types. Students are supported through conferences with their teacher to write interesting, creative and informative pieces. There is a strong focus on the teaching of handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Speaking and Listening (oral language) is the foundation of student learning. It is essential in learning to read and write. Successful use of language is critical for students' development and wellbeing. Almost all classroom based learning relies on oral language. Students are taught specific speaking and listening skills in areas such as vocabulary, following instructions, expressing opinions, conversing with others, phonics and grammar.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics curriculum focuses on Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability. We use open ended questioning, hands on materials and real world problem solving in order to develop and apply thinking and reasoning skills.

At Deans Marsh Primary School we offer a comprehensive program which aims to provide students with a strong grounding in mathematical skills, strategies and understandings. Our aim is to support students in becoming numerate and use mathematics effectively so they can successfully participate at school, at home and in the wider community.

Problem Solving is a whole school focus. Students regularly participate in a wide range of mathematical investigations that encourage them to read problems carefully, locate key words and use thinking and reasoning strategies to find solutions. Problem solving strategies are explicitly taught and our students are able to explain the methods they use throughout their investigations.

The school ensures each class dedicates at least one hour to Numeracy every day. Mathematics is taught through the dimensions of Number and Algebra; Measurement and Geometry; Statistics and Probability.



Teachers provide engaging "hands on" tasks and games that take into account students' ability levels and interests. The activities are usually based on real life experiences so students can see a purpose for learning and make relevant connections to their everyday lives. Teachers strive to make Mathematics a fun and positive experience.

Our whole school Mathematics units:

Term 1:	Place Value
Term 2:	The Four Processes
Term 3:	Fractions
Term 4:	Measurement

Each year we seek Year 3-6 students who are interested in participating in the Australian Mathematics Competition. This is one of the world's largest school-based mathematics competitions, with 15 million entries since 1978. This is one the ways that we cater for the personalised Maths needs of our students.

KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRAM

Deans Marsh Primary School operates a very successful Kitchen Garden program based on the Stephanie Alexander model. We grow fresh vegetables and fruit with the aim to help children understand the many benefits of growing our own. Other aims include:

- Discovering where our food comes from.
- Observing the life cycle of a little seed through to harvest.
- Trying different food with friends and discovering that it tastes great!

During 2022, each class will participate in the Kitchen Garden program alternating each term.

On a fortnightly basis children harvest seasonal fruit and vegetables and prepare a three course lunch to be shared amongst the Kitchen Garden group, staff and invited guests. Eggs collected from the school's chooks are used in preparing meals.

A Kitchen Garden levy of \$20 per student is included in the Curriculum Contributions voluntary charge to help cover the cost of seedlings and ingredients that are unable to be sourced from the school's garden. This ensures we provide a healthy lunch to students on alternate Thursdays.

Wherever possible, we seek to link this program to the Deans Marsh community, by inviting families, local childcare and locals who support our school to meals.

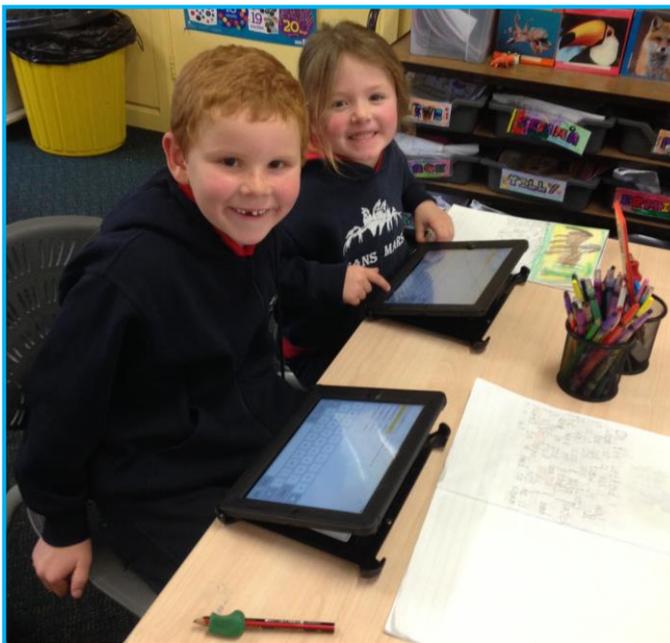


INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Central to the core values of the school is the challenge we set to be innovative and inspiring in our search for excellence in curriculum, teaching, learning, performance and relationships, which produces engaged, robust citizens and lifelong learners capable of shaping our future.

In an ever changing world it is imperative that schools afford students the best possible opportunities by incorporating various technologies as part of the teaching and learning environment.

With the support of School Council and parents we commenced a 1:1 iPad environment in 2014. This program was expanded in 2021 to include 1:1 netbook computers for grade 5/6 students. With every child having an iPad or netbook they have immediate access to up-to-date touch screen devices allowing for learning to take place anywhere and at any time. The school is constantly reviewing and enhancing ICT hardware and programs to provide the opportunity for our students to enter a new world of curriculum possibilities allowing engagement and involvement in their learning. Learning experiences across the school are purposefully designed to develop the attributes of a life-long learner.



iPads and netbooks remain at the school outside hours. Parents may elect for devices to be taken home by students at a cost of \$10 per term per child.

An ICT acceptable use policy agreements page must be returned to school so students can fully utilise the technology available to them in order to aid their ongoing learning. iPad & netbook usage is actively supervised at school and the devices are systematically checked to ensure students are using them in accordance with this policy. At home, there are three main kinds of internet risks for children.

- 1. Content risks**

For school-age children these risks include things that they might find upsetting, disgusting or otherwise uncomfortable, if they come across them accidentally.

- 2. Contact risks**

These risks include children coming into contact with people they don't know or with adults posing as children online.

- 3. Conduct risks**

These risks include children acting in ways that might hurt others, or being the victim of this kind of behaviour.

We encourage families to contact the school if you have any concerns about your child's device usage at home or at school.



All our students take part in classroom sessions to learn coding skills. Coders, or programmers, are people who write the programmes behind everything we see and do on a computer. When children learn to code, it helps them to develop essential skills such as problem solving, logic and critical thinking. Through coding, children can learn that there's often more than one way to solve a problem, and that simpler and more efficient solutions are often better. Learning to code encourages children to become creators, not just consumers, of the technology they use.

While learning to code at the primary school level, children are encouraged to think critically and strategically to solve problems—often simple puzzles like getting an onscreen character to move around a maze. For younger children, visual blocks are often used to represent programming concepts and terminology, such as 'procedures', 'loops' and 'conditional instructions'. Older students keen to take their learning further can be involved in our coding clubs, using coding with our school drones or robots and competing in interschool coding competitions.

STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and at Deans Marsh Primary School it may look like anything from creating and racing solar boats to programming drones. No matter what, our STEM program is a highly structured and educational aspect of each child's schooling.

In the Victorian Curriculum F–10, the Technologies includes Design and Technology and Digital Technologies. In Design and Technologies, students use design thinking and technologies to generate and produce designed solutions. In Digital Technologies, students use computational thinking and information systems to analyse, design and develop digital solutions.

The STEM curriculum aims to ensure that students develop an interest in Science and Technology as a means of expanding their curiosity and willingness to explore, ask questions about and speculate on the changing world in which we live.

Our STEM program is supported by our in-school scientist and is linked to community groups, such as Landcare and the Surfcoast Energy Group.



HUMANITIES

In the Victorian Curriculum F–10, the Humanities includes Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography and History. The Humanities provide a framework for students to examine the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and to investigate responses to different challenges including people's interconnections with the environment.

In Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business, students explore the systems that shape society, with a specific focus on legal and economic systems. Students learn about Australia's role in global systems, and are encouraged to appreciate democratic principles and to contribute as active, informed and responsible citizens.

In History and Geography, students explore the processes that have shaped and which continue to shape different societies and cultures, to appreciate the common humanity shared across time and distance, and to evaluate the ways in which humans have faced and continue to face different challenges.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Arts includes Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design. In Dance, Drama and Music students explore the performing arts whilst in Media Arts, Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design students explore the world of visual representation and expression.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Physical Education focuses on students enhancing their own and others' health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity participation in varied and changing contexts. Integral to Health and Physical Education is the acquisition of movement skills, concepts and strategies to enable students to confidently, competently and creatively participate in a range of physical activities. Key aspects of our program include bike education (3-6), swimming (P-6) and the Resilience Project (P-6).



LANGUAGES

Learning languages in addition to English extends student's literacy repertoires and their capacity to communicate. It strengthens student's understanding of the nature of language, culture, and the processes of communication. Our LOTE language is Indonesian, where students explore the language and culture of Indonesia with our Indonesian teacher.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Deans Marsh Primary School a wide range of extra-curricular programs operate to compliment the learning at school.

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND SAFETY

Our school is on the traditional and of the Gadubanud people and staff provide a safe space for respectful, open discussion and reflection on Aboriginal Perspectives. We are setting up strong links with local Aboriginal organisations, our Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESO's) and other groups that can support us to discover more about Aboriginal people and other cultures. We hold a bi-annual Cultural Celebration Day, where students and families participate in a range of activities to take our learning beyond our own backyard and we invite community members to share their cultural backgrounds and stories.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education is a very important aspect of the school's curriculum. The school has a Wetlands project at swamp lands near and also within the school grounds. Students participate in a number of activities annually at these sites as well as the school's tree plantation sites at Bambra and off the Birregurra Road. The school is currently developing the school dam and surrounding area into a wetlands/small wildlife reserve. We are also part of the Schools Water Efficiency Program and have had a water meter installed on our main tank. The school is also involved in recycling programs.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Apart from School Council which consists of teachers and parents, there is also Junior School Council (JSC). Children volunteer to be a part of JSC, and are consulted on and informed of any decisions JSC are wishing to make. They run their own fundraising, help formulate school rules and make requests to the Principal on relevant matters. The JSC organise social activities for students eg disco and their meetings are lead by the school captains. The JSC are elected by their peers and are a 'voice' for the students. The School Captains and I meet with JSC once per month to make decisions and drive positive change. There is a badge presentation for the JSC at assembly. I wonder what amazing ideas the JSC have in store for us next year?



EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS

Excursions provide valuable hands on experiences for children in all grades and various activities will be conducted throughout the year relevant to the curriculum. Parents are notified in writing prior to any excursion and a permission form must be signed and returned to school to allow a child to take part. These forms also involve permission for authority to take emergency action in case of illness or accident.

Camping activities are conducted for grades 3-6 on a four year rotation, usually in Term 1 or 2. The 2023 school camp is to the Urban Camp in Melbourne with students from Forrest, Alvie and Beeac schools also attending. In 2022 the students went to Sovereign Hill and in 2021 the camp was held at Roses Gap. The 2024 camp will be to Anglesea.



Sovereign Hill Camp



Urban Camp



INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

During the first half of the year all children compete against other schools in the Polwarth Sports District Athletics Carnival. Family members are encouraged to attend. This event is held at the Alvie Consolidated school. Our focus is on participation and fun, although we should also acknowledge that we have been the overall winner the past two years due to our school PE program.

The upper grades also participate in the Polwarth Cross Country with other local country schools.

Opportunities exist for competing in interschool cross country, swimming, equestrian, athletics, netball, basketball, tennis, golf, badminton and football competitions for the older children.



MOBILE LIBRARY & MARC

At present, there are two library vans which visit the school. The MARC (Mobile Area Resource Centre) Van is funded by the Department of Education and visits fortnightly. A mobile library from the Surfcoast Shire visits Fridays from 10.30 – 11.30 am. The Marsh Messenger will advertise the MARC Van dates. If your child/ren has any borrowed books at home, please ensure they go back to school the day before.

MUSIC LESSONS

Weekly guitar and piano lessons are available for students during school time. These lessons are paid for by the parent in arrangement with the individual music teachers. The school's guitar teacher is Mr Gavin Cross and the piano teacher is Mr David Stewart. These lessons are not organised by the school but are fully supported.

SCHOOL CONCERT

A school concert is held annually, usually in term 4. This event provides students with the opportunity to explore the many facets of the arts. All students are involved in the concert, and the year 6 students help to write the script.

SPORTING SCHOOLS

Various after school activities are regularly offered free of charge for students through the Sporting Schools program (formerly Active After School). The activities and days change each term with the activity running for 1 hour after school finishes, one night a week. The activities offered have included tennis, cricket, dance, AFL footy, soccer, mini-sports, netball, gymnastics, soft hockey, bike ed, basketball, lacrosse, hockey, circus skills, poi, Olympic sporting activities, calisthenics, swimming, orienteering and aerobics.

SWIMMING

A 2 week swimming program is offered to all students at the Winchelsea Pool at the beginning of the year. The last day of the swimming program is a swimming carnival with parents and community members encouraged to attend. A biennial beach day with the Lorne Surf Life Saving Club is also held at the end of the year. Costs and dates will be advised. Please let the school know if you have a family membership to the pool because this will save you from paying the entrance fees. As a SunSmart school, rash vests or wetsuits are compulsory. Goggles and wetsuits are a good idea.



CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS

DMPS, like all government schools, provides students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all curriculum contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

The support of our families has allowed us to organise and coordinate the best possible programs outside of the traditional teaching and learning classroom structure. These financial contributions assist us with the purchasing of art, science and physical education equipment and resources, cooking ingredients and gardening supplies for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, and enhanced digital learning opportunities including 1:1 devices for every student.

DMPS do not require families to purchase individual book packs. All necessary consumable items will be supplied directly to classrooms in bulk and will be distributed to students as and when they are needed. This system works very effectively at DMPS.

In 2022 the Curriculum Contribution charge was \$185 per student. This is heavily subsidised by school council and includes all classroom consumables, materials and equipment, online subscriptions, provision of a 1:1 device at school, and some school events.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid 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 will be \$125 for primary school students and \$225 for secondary school students.

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

Excursion to Biolab



DAILY ROUTINES

ASSEMBLY

A whole school assembly is held at 3.00pm on Friday afternoons. All families are very welcome.

BIKES

Bikes can be ridden to and from school but not around the school grounds during playtimes, or before, or after school. Helmets must be worn.

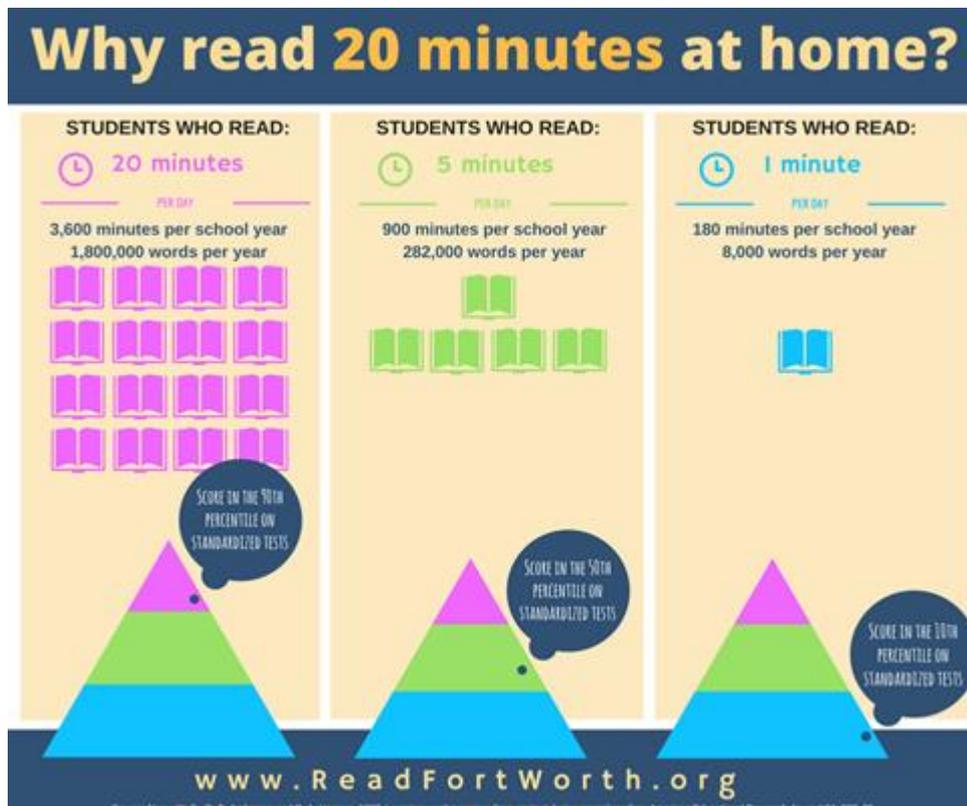
Bikes are kept behind the garden shed during the school day. VicRoads recommends that children under the age of twelve years should ride under adult supervision. We run a bike education program for all students every 2 years.



Visit to the Lorne Community Hospital

HOMEWORK

Each student will bring home weekly homework to complete that will reinforce, strengthen and deepen classroom learning whilst keeping parents involved in what is happening at school. The teachers are very keen to establish regular homework routines that are not overly time-consuming or challenging. Your support with this is greatly appreciated by the teachers and by your child. Reading is a big part of this homework.



CHECK BAGS

During the year, there are several forms, messages and handouts your child will receive, some needing to be completed and returned to school. It is best to check their bags nightly as they can forget to hand things on at times. Many of these notes will also go home via our online platform: Compass. Information is included in this pack.

COMPASS

The school uses an online platform for strengthening our home-school partnership. Compass has features including roll marking, push notifications for absences, teacher and parent emailing, school announcements, newsletters, online calendar, parent interview bookings and school reports.

Each family will receive individual login details. Once you login using your computer or smart phone app, you will see the school calendar and information about your child/ren and attendance.

LUNCHES

Hot healthy home-made lunches are often provided by parent volunteers using the facilities of the Musical Kitchen. Seasonal produce from the school's veggie garden and orchard and eggs from the school's chooks are used whenever possible. Lunch orders also include a sweet treat – all for \$5. The menu alters with order forms being sent home on orange paper. Please complete the order form, include the correct money in an envelope and return to school at least two days before the lunch day. The lunch order box is located outside the staffroom.

JSC also run a "toasties" program during term 2 and 3, where students can pay 20 cents to have their lunch heated in a sandwich toaster. This becomes a "freezies" program in terms 1 and 4, with 20 cents allowing students to place food or drink in the school freezer.

NEWSLETTER

The Marsh Messenger is our fortnightly newsletter which brings you up to date on what is happening at the school and in the community. **It is important to read this promptly as sometimes there is important last minute information.** If you want to use the 'Marsh Messenger', contributions can be left at the school office or emailed to deans.marsh.ps@education.vic.gov.au. Please have them in by Tuesday at 3.15pm. The newsletter is sent out on Compass on **Thursdays**.

Hardcopies of the newsletter will only be sent home to parents who specifically request it. Permission forms for excursions, events etc will also be sent on Compass, but parents can be provided a hard copy if requested.

SAFE SCHOOLS

All visitors, parent/carer helpers & contractors are required to sign in at the foyer before entering the school and must provide a copy of a current working with children check for our files. Before entering the school, please collect a 'visitor' badge from the office next to the sign in book to wear on school premises. Parents picking up children early or dropping students off late must continue to report to the school office first to sign children in/out. An iPad is at the front counter for sign ins and outs.

Our school is a child safe environments and actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students. All of our staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment, in accordance with their legal obligations including child safe standards. Like all schools. We have a Child Safety Code of Conduct consistent with the Department's expectations. These are available on the school's website.

SCHOOL BUS

There are two bus runs, to the Pennyroyal/Murroon and Bambra/Winchelsea South districts. The bus timetables change minimally from year to year according to the number of children using the service - please let the school know at the start of the school year if you intend to use it. A bus policy is included with this information pack for you to read with your child, sign and return to school.

In the morning, there is a teacher on duty at the school from the time of the first bus arriving and again in the afternoon until the last bus leaves. Rules of bus travel include sitting in allocated seats, sitting quietly whilst travelling, no standing, no distracting the driver and keeping schoolbags under the seat. These rules are formulated for the safety of all travellers and we ask that you explain these to your child.

In the afternoons, a bus roll is taken by the teacher on duty with the names taken of all children on the bus. A copy of this is kept at the school in case of accidents / incidents. Parents must supply a note if your child is not getting off at their regular stop. This note is to be given to the child's teacher at the commencement of the school day. If your child normally travels by bus but is to be picked up instead, please also inform the teacher.

A conveyance allowance is available for children who live more that 4.8kms from the school and who can not use the bus service, or who live more than 4.8kms from the nearest bus pick up point. Contact the Principal for details.



PUNCTUALITY

It is important to have children at school at least five minutes before school begins (ie. 8.55am). This allows them time to hang up their bags and settle in. If your child/ren arrives late they can disrupts the class routine. Teachers are on duty from 8.45am daily and the first bell rings at 8:55am to allow students to visit the bathroom and wash their hands. A gentle reminder that a student who is half an hour late each day misses the equivalent of 16.6 days of learning each year.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is SO important to the development of every student. DMPS staff want to provide support and strategies for families to assist with regular school attendance. We will make contact with you if your child's attendance falls out of the normal range.

0-6	This is within the normal range for 1 semester. Your child can take advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.
7 – 10	This attendance rate is below average for 1 semester. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of schooling between Foundation and Year 10.
11- 20	This is a deemed a poor attendance rate for 1 semester by the Department of Education. A child with this attendance rate could miss up to two years of schooling between Foundation and Year 10.

Regular school attendance is a shared responsibility.

TOYS

Toys may be brought to school for play times. However, the school is not responsible for these items. Toys of violence (swords, guns, bows and arrows etc) are not permitted.

WEBSITE

The school has a website where, in addition to providing general information about the school, copies of the school Annual Report, Annual Implementation Plan and policies are stored. These are accessible at deansmarshps.vic.edu.au



MEDICAL

ABSENCE NOTES

It is now a requirement for all Victorian public schools to contact parents on the day of an unexplained student absence. If you do not make contact with the school regarding your child's absence by 9am you will receive a push notification from Compass. Please contact the school first as this will allow teachers to concentrate on teaching, rather than chasing up absent students.

ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESSES

The teachers will administer first aid for minor injuries (eg bandaids for scratches, ice packs for bruising). In the event of accidents, emergencies or illness, parents or guardians are contacted. If this is not possible, the ambulance will be called or the child will be taken to a doctor or hospital. It is important that school files are kept **up to date** with addresses and phone numbers including **emergency contact numbers**. Please notify the school as soon as any of these changes occur. Please return ice packs, bandages or slings if they are sent home with your child.

BARWON HEALTH DENTAL VAN

Qualified dental staff visit the school yearly to carry out dental services in a mobile dental van. Services include full examinations, scale and clean, fillings, x-rays and further treatment where required.

IMMUNISATION

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register now supplies a history statement that acts as a school entry immunisation certificate. It is automatically posted out once your child has completed the 4-year-old immunisations and has completed all required childhood immunisations. Please supply the school with a copy of your child's immunisation record with their enrolment form.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

Medical action plans for students, including Asthma and Anaphylaxis Plans must be given to the school at the time of enrolment. Updated action plans must be provided to the school yearly or as required.

MEDICATION

Please give all medication with details (name of child, dosage, and times of medication) in a container to your child's teacher.

SCHOOL NURSE VISIT

A school nurse visits the school each year. A health assessment is carried out on prep children early in the school year. Problems previously identified with older children are followed up. Permission forms must be completed if you wish your child to have an assessment.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We have a Before-School and After-School Care Program which is run at the Deans Marsh Community Cottage. Please complete a registration form (at the office) if you would like to make use of this service.



CONCERNS

If you have any concerns, teachers are only too happy to discuss them with you. Please contact the school office and you can make a time to meet with a staff member. Remember that your school councillors are there for you also especially if you have any concerns about the school in general. The current school council president is Kirilee Wilson. The school has a grievance policy which informs community members of the protocol to use if you have a complaint. The office can provide you with a copy of this policy.

CURRICULUM DAYS

Curriculum Days are pupil free days when teachers work on school policies, curriculum, reports and school related matters. The first curriculum day for 2023 will be held on Friday 27th January. The remaining days are Tuesday 14th March, Friday 9th June and Monday 6th November. We recognise that some families like to get away for a holiday outside of school holidays. To support our families, we seek to strategically place our Curriculum days in order to provide families with the opportunity for “Mid Term Breaks” (Eg after Public Holidays). We lock these dates in with plenty of notice so families can plan their busy lives. By providing these midterm breaks, staff and school council are hopeful that families will NOT need to take any additional breaks during school time.



PUBLICATIONS

We celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation in school events and their achievements in our school newsletter. Occasionally photographs of the students are included.

We invite local press to school events and they are expected to follow school policy on the publication of photographs of students. When a story is about an individual achievement we will always seek your consent before passing information or photographs to the press for publication.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are organised every year usually in term 4. Parents are notified via the Marsh Messenger when they take place.



SCHOOL REPORTS

Reports will be written by the teachers and given to your child to bring home towards the end of the 2nd and 4th terms. You are encouraged to attend a mid year Parent/Teacher interview. In term 2, this interview is called a “student led conference” and involves the student, parents and teacher. This will enable all parties to be involved in the learning partnership. In addition, if at any time during the year you are concerned about your child, please feel free to contact their teacher.

SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL

All money that is sent to school for any reason eg. excursions, fundraisers, bookclub etc, should be sent in an envelope marked with your child’s name, grade, reason for payment and the amount enclosed. This is then to be put in either the Notes and Forms box, Bookclub box or Lunch Order box located outside the staff room.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If there are any special circumstances which may affect your child/ren’s behaviour, eg sadness, excitement, tiredness, please let their teacher know so they are aware of the situation and can take special consideration.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AS A PARENT

Parent input is vital to the running of the school. Depending on your particular interests and time availability, there are many ways you can help and make a difference to the school.

Being a member of School Council is a rewarding and challenging experience. Acting as a team, council supports the Principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. School Council are the elected representatives of all parents. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings and these are advertised on the school calendar and the newsletter. It is however the elected reps that vote during meetings. We also have sub committees for Finance and Building & Grounds meetings.

Apart from School Council there are many other ways you can help. These include: promoting the school to the wider community, attending working bees, helping in class, helping teachers in general (eg covering books, typing), being part of the clubs program, helping out with swimming, attending excursions. Children love seeing their parents helping out at the school. It also gives you a good idea of how things are run.

If you wish to contact the office we would prefer, if it is NOT an emergency that you call between 8.30am and 9.00am, 1.30pm and 2.15pm or after 3.20pm, as we have only limited clerical assistance answering the phone at other times and your call may interrupt classroom activities. The school has a Message Bank facility in use also.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

If you are new to the community you may wish to join in activities that interest you. A list of some of the groups in Deans Marsh is given below - phone numbers often change for these groups so if you are interested, just ask someone. The General Store also has a lot of information about the area.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The school community is encouraged to participate in a range of community events. One of the school's major fundraising events is the Deans Marsh Festival held in March.

THE COMMUNITY COTTAGE

The Deans Marsh Community Cottage is a community run, non-profit organisation providing a range of support services, self-help groups, information and learning in a friendly and relaxed environment. The cottage aims to develop and deliver programs, events and activities in response to community need. These include markets, The Deans Marsh Festival and kids activities to name a few. The Cottage auspices a number of other community groups whose aim is to connect community through their activities.

OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Historical Society
Volunteer Fire Brigade
Community Aid Abroad
Red Cross
Cricket Club
Tennis Club (Bambra and Deans Marsh)
Playgroup
Anglican Church
Bambra Hall Committee
Deans Marsh Hall Committee
Deans Marsh Festival Committee



The staff, students and parents of Deans Marsh Primary School are very proud of our unique school. New students are always invited, understood and celebrated within our student-centred learning environment. At Deans Marsh Primary School we strive to ensure that all our students don't just cope, they thrive.