

WELCOME TO IRYMPLE SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL 2026

A warm welcome to all new and returning families. I look forward to a positive and exciting year ahead in 2026.

This newsletter contains important information about school events, learning and community updates, and I encourage all families to read it each week. It is distributed via XUNO, uploaded to our school website, and shared through our Facebook and Instagram pages.

We are also pleased to see close to \$1 million in capital works currently underway at our school as part of the Planned Maintenance Program. These improvements will further enhance our learning environments for students. While on site, we ask all members of our community to please follow safety fencing and signage in areas affected by the works. These precautions are in place to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors.

Jamie Russell

Welcome to our Prep Students

Our Preps have started their educational journey with great enthusiasm! In their first two days they have established routines and unpacking expectations. They have spent time with their Grade 6 buddies and had snack with them. The Preps will not be attending school on Wednesday during February. This will give them a chance to rest. The Preps first full week of school will commence on Monday 2nd March.



Welcome to New Students

This year we have some new students attending our school. We would like to welcome; Lucinda Burton (1H), Aisea Kaufana (2Z), Finn Maddox (2D), River Naldrett (3S), Luca Pasquale (3S), Mason Sparrow (4G) and Elsie Maddox (5G). We hope their first two days have been wonderful!

Office: 50245345

Postal Address: P.O. Box 716, Irymple South 3498

Email: irymplesouth.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Web: www.irymplesouthps.vic.edu.au

The department respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.

Student Leadership

We are looking forward to working with our Grade 6 student leaders this year. They were presented with their badges at the end of last year, so they are ready to lead their student cohort.

Our School Captains for 2026 are;

Robert Ale
Ollie Hughes
Charlotte Oliver
Eliza Sleep



Our House Captains for 2026 are;

Dewry
Mason Anderson & Noah Carn
Campbell
Ariana Karallis & Frankie Mammone
Newton
Gabe Blundy & Taresa Romeo
McCracken
Mila Caristo & Malachy Pyke



Learning Conferences

We will be having 'Learning Conferences' on **Tuesday 24th March**. Students will not attend school on this day, but are expected to attend their conference. Bookings will be via XUNO and we will let you know when they open. 'TheirCare' will offer care during the day if needed.

Absences

If your child is absent, it is a requirement that a parent or guardian informs the school via XUNO, an email to the classroom teacher, message on Seesaw or a phone call. If your child will be absent for an extended period, please inform the class teacher or school before they leave.

Assembly

Each Monday and Friday, whole school assemblies are held. Each week a different class is responsible for running the assembly. The acknowledgement of country is said and the national anthem is sung at Monday's assembly. Birthdays are celebrated on both days. 'Students of the Week' are presented with their certificates on Monday morning.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is vital for your child's progress. All children need to attend school daily. The school teaching program starts promptly at 9:00am, so we suggest that you make sure your child arrives about 20 minutes before this time to get themselves organised and have a chat with their friends. School finishes at 3:15pm, with bus travellers getting on their bus at 3:10pm. Please schedule any non-essential appointments outside these hours. We recommend that students are at school by 8:40am.

Buddies

Each Prep student will have a Grade 6 buddy. Their buddy will help them throughout their first year of school. The Grade 6 students will support their buddy outside in the yard and sometimes help with activities in class. Both the Prep and Grade 6 students love getting to know each other.



Bus

Students can catch a bus to and from school from a variety of locations. If you are considering using the bus to get to school, visit the CDC website

(<https://cdcvictoria.com.au/services/school-services/mildura/irymple-south-primary-school/>) which will take you to the timetable for Irymple South PS. In 2026, public transport for children under 18 is free. To access free travel each student will need a new Youth myki card and show this when getting on the bus. Use the following link to purchase one: [Youth Myki](#)

Digital Technologies

Recent changes to the Department's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy mean that Primary schools are no longer able to invite parents and carers to supply or purchase a digital device for student use and ownership from 2027. Families who have already purchased devices in previous years for students in Years 1–6 are encouraged to continue sending these devices to school each day, fully charged.

In 2026, our school will continue to use Mosyle School Manager as our device management platform. This enables the secure distribution of educational applications and ensures students access digital resources in a safe and controlled learning environment.

All parents and carers are required to read and accept the [Digital Learning Policy](#) and [Acceptable Use Agreement](#). Students will complete their agreement during class time. Parents and carers must read the policy and complete the agreement via XUNO by **Friday 6 February**.

Communication with the school

We value open lines of communication between home and school. If you have any issues, concerns or queries about your child, please do not hesitate to contact their teacher via XUNO, email or Seesaw. Feel free to pop in and make a time to discuss any matter.

Camps Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) 2026

The Victorian Government will be providing a CSEF payment to all eligible families to assist with the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. New applicants should contact the office for an application form. If you applied in 2025 and your circumstances have not

changed, you do not need to reapply. Please check with the office and read the flyer further on in the newsletter for more information.

Eating of Snack and Lunch

Snack is eaten in the classroom from 10:50am to 11:00am. Lunch is eaten inside between 1:20pm and 1:30pm.

Extreme Weather

An extreme weather timetable will be enforced when the predicted temperature is 38°C or above. This decision will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

If the day is declared an extreme weather day the following will occur;

- Children will go outside as normal at recess
- Lunches will be eaten inside during the usual class time (1:20pm – 1:30pm)
- Children be able to go outside from 1:30pm – 1:50pm
- Children will have to remain under the shade sails during their time outside
- Children will remain in their classrooms for the remaining 20 minutes
- Children will undertake quiet activities in their classrooms
- Children will be reminded to drink water regularly during the day

Hats

All children are required to wear school bucket hats in the school yard at all times from September 1st through to April 30th. Our school actively supports Sunsmart policies. School hats are available to purchase at Laser Signs and Print.

Healthy Lunch

It is important that children have healthy lunches and snacks at school. We encourage 'rubbish free' lunches to minimise the rubbish in our yard, promote sustainable practices and the waste of resources that are used to wrap food items. By using plastic containers, you can help reduce the amount of rubbish brought to school.



Houses

Each child is placed in a House when they are enrolled. Siblings are placed in the same house. The students compete in the Cross Country and Athletic Sports in their House. Our houses are;

MCCRACKEN
NEWTON
CAMPBELL
DEWRY

Information Updates

Please keep us informed about any changes to phone numbers, emergency contacts and addresses. If any details change please email these to Jodie Hughes so that they can be updated. Jodie.Hughes@education.vic.gov.au

Late Arrivals & Early Departures

All parents/guardians must come via the office if they are dropping their child off after 9:00am, or if they are picking their child up before 3:15pm. There is an iPad to sign students both in and out of school.

Lunch Orders

The Irymple General Store supply the school's lunch orders. Lunch order days will be **WEDNESDAY** and **FRIDAY**. Lunch orders are now ordered through the Flexischools App. Download the app and create an account now, so that you are ready. If you already have the app, please ensure that you update your child's details.

Lunchtime Programs

During lunchtime we provide both passive and active activities for all age groups throughout the year. These activities are run by staff and Grade 6 student leaders. Activities occur both inside and outside. The activities change each term and have included board games, Lego, football and netball

Medication

If your child requires medication whilst they are at school, the medication needs to be taken to the office by the parent or guardian. The school can only administer medication if we receive it from an adult. Dosage and times need to be clearly labelled on the medication. Children should not have medication in their bag.

Medical Action Plan

If your child suffers from asthma, anaphylaxis or allergy, we require an action plan that has been filled in and signed by your doctor. This needs to be brought to the school office before the start of the school year. Medical alerts are communicated with all staff and we take these very seriously.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published weekly and distributed electronically on Friday through an email via XUNO. The newsletter provides all the information about our school and it is a vital point of call if you need to know anything. The newsletter is also uploaded to the website and a link posted on Facebook and Instagram.

Outside School Hours Care

TheirCare will be running an outside school hours care program every afternoon from 3:15pm to 6:00pm each day at our school. TheirCare also run their program on pupil free days and during the holidays. If you require a place in the Outside School Hours Care program please contact;
TheirCare 1300 072 410
www.theircare.com.au

Parent Payment 2026

School Council determines the school fees each year and approves the [Parent Payment Policy](#) as outlined by the Department of Education. The parent payment cost for 2026 will be \$200. This cost covers all essential student learning items (for example: pens, pencils, digital resources). Any extra non curriculum based programs (eg interschool sport) will incur a cost at the time of the event. Payment plans are available by direct depositing money into the following account with your child's name as the reference;
BSB: 063 520
Acc: 10104523

Parental Involvement

We value and promote parental involvement in our school through a variety of different forums. Our newsletter, XUNO, Facebook and Instagram pages are vital mediums for advising parents of the workings of the school, upcoming events and for opportunities to offer your assistance.

Photography, Filming & Recording

Each year we draw your attention to our policy on how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings (images) of students. Please take the time to read the [policy](#). If you wish to withdraw your consent or would like to discuss any aspects of the policy, please contact the office.

Parking

Please park safely at all times and follow the signs regarding parking in Belar Avenue and 15th Street. Please observe speed signs at all times and observe the crossing area rules. Ensure that you don't park where the buses park and leave plenty of room around the crossing. Take a look at the [video](#) that we have created.

Prep Rest Days

We welcome all of our very excited and enthusiastic Preps. The Preps will not be attending school on Wednesday during February. This will give them a chance to rest. The Preps first full week of school will commence on Monday 2nd March.

Seesaw

The Seesaw app allows students to publish their work and show the learning that they have been doing. All curriculum areas will upload throughout the year as part of our ongoing assessment.

School Hours

9:00am	Assembly (Mon & Fri)
9:00am – 10:50am	Session 1
10:50am - 11:00am	Snack eating
11:00am – 11:30am	Recess
11:30am – 1:20pm	Session 2
1:20pm – 1:35pm	Lunch eating
1:35pm – 2:10pm	Lunch
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Session 3
3.10pm	Bell for bus travellers
3.15pm	Dismiss

School Photos

School Photos will be taken on Tuesday 17th February. Photos will be ordered online. Individual and family packages can be ordered. More information about how to order will be sent home shortly.

Social Media

At Irymple South Primary School, we use social media to connect and communicate with the members of our school community. Our Facebook and Instagram pages allow our community to keep up to date with activities through a medium preferred by many. Please take the time to read our [Social Media Code of Conduct](#)

The website has links to our school policies, PDF copies of the newsletter and information about the school. www.irymplesouthps.vic.edu.au

Specialist Programs

In 2026 we will have specialist programs, usually one hour per week, with specialist teachers in Health, STEM, PE, Visual Arts, Food Technology and Dance. The specialist programs provide students with the opportunity to explore and participate in creative, though provoking and physical activities.

Students of the Week

Teachers recognise children who have made a special effort in class during the week by awarding them a 'Student of the Week' certificate. Each class teacher, specialist teacher and the principal give out an award each week. The 'Students of the Week' are announced in Friday's newsletter and awards are given out at Monday's assembly.

Uniform

Our school uniform is available from Laser Signs and Print. They are located at Shop 4, 75 Melaleuca Street, Buronga. Phone 5021 1129. Uniforms can also be purchased online. Follow the directions below:

- www.lasersp.com.au
- Online Store
- Schools
- Irymple South Primary

Water Bottles

All children need to have a water bottle to use in the classroom and for outdoor lessons. Please don't freeze drink bottles or put cordial in them.

XUNO

We use XUNO as a communication tool for parents. Permission notes, Academic Reports, the Newsletter and Absences can all be done through XUNO. Please ensure that you are logged on

Staff 2026

Principal	Jamie Russell	(Jamie.Russell@education.vic.gov.au)
Assistant Principal	Steven Sellens	(Steven.Sellens@education.vic.gov.au)
Learning Specialist	Lauren Hepworth	(Lauren.Hepworth@education.vic.gov.au)
Learning Specialist	Brian Gray	(Brian.Gray@education.vic.gov.au)

Classroom Teachers

Prep T	Phyllis Tabacco	Room 5	(Phyllis.Tabacco@education.vic.gov.au)
Prep D	Makayla Direen	Room 6	(Makayla.Direen@education.vic.gov.au)
Prep C	Kate Cardew	Room 7	(Kate.Cardew@education.vic.gov.au)
1M	Nadine McWilliams	Room 17	(Nadine.McWilliams@education.vic.gov.au)
1MG	Katelyn Matthews	Room 16	(Katelyn.Matthews@education.vic.gov.au)
	Sarah Gladman		(Sarah.Gladman@education.vic.gov.au)
1H	Cindy Hannig	Room 15	(Cindy.Hannig@education.vic.gov.au)
2M	Stacey McDermott	Room 12	(Stacey.McDermott@education.vic.gov.au)
2Z	Belinda Zappia	Room 13	(Shivaun.Gale@education.vic.gov.au)
2D	Carmel Dimasi	Room 14	(Carmel.Dimasi@education.vic.gov.au)
3G	Brian Gray	Room 3	(Brian.Gray@education.vic.gov.au)
3Z	Chloe Storer	Room 4	(Chloe.Storer@education.vic.gov.au)
4R	Shanae Rose	Room 1	(Shanae.Rose@education.vic.gov.au)
4G	Eryn Gee	Room 2	(Eryn.Gee@education.vic.gov.au)
5G	Danielle Gunn	Room 8	(Danielle.Gunn@education.vic.gov.au)
5B	Tammy Warn	Room 9	(Tammy.Warn@education.vic.gov.au)
6S	Kia Scott	Room 10	(Kia.Scot@education.vic.gov.au)
6H	Lauren Hepworth	Room 11	(Lauren.Hepworth@education.vic.gov.au)

Wellbeing Team

Wendy Jenkins	Inclusion Support Specialist	(Wendy.Jenkins@education.vic.gov.au)
Laura Maher	Occupational Therapist	(Laura.Maher2@education.vic.gov.au)
Jess Kee	Social Worker	(Jessica.Kee@education.vic.gov.au)

Specialist Teachers

Sharon Branson	P.E.	(Sharon.Branson@education.vic.gov.au)
Tayler Brooks	Health	(Tayler.Brooks@education.vic.gov.au)
Shivaun Gale	STEM	(Shivaun.Gale@education.viv.gov.au)
Libby Kennedy	Dance	(Elizabeth.Kennedy2@education.vic.gov.au)
Emma Lord	Art	(Emma.Lord@education.vic.gov.au)
Elise Thornton	Food Technology	(Elise.Thornton@education.vic.gov.au)

Classroom Support Teachers

Maddy Hura	Classroom Support	(Maddy.Hura@education.vic.gov.au)
Bonnie Lando	Classroom Support	(Bonnie.Lando@education.vic.gov.au)

Education Support-Office

Sharon Welsh	Business Manager	(Sharon.Welsh@education.vic.gov.au)
Jodie Hughes	Office Admin	(Jodie.Hughes@education.vic.gov.au)
Amanda Russell	Admin Support	(Amanda.Russell3@education.vic.gov.au)

Education Support (Classroom)

Maddy Aiello
 Lily Bruhn
 Ella Burford
 Bethany Hartwig
 Kofi Lord
 Maria Petrolo
 Olivia Tassone
 Casey Romeo
 Brenda Vadori
 Maggie Watt

Grounds & Maintenance

Dave Allen

School email address

irymplesouth.ps@education.vic.gov.au

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY

Sasha Smith (2nd)
 Nardia Sirgunas (4th)
 Phoenix Caristo (5th)
 Andrew Walton (7th)
 Lucy Holman (9th)
 Austin Perry (10th)
 Indiana Bateman (13th)
 Issa Zahd (13th)
 Alfie Voyce (15th)
 Logan Bellini (15th)
 Charlotte Oliver (16th)
 Eloise Tiedemann (17th)
 Ella Standley (19th)
 Lorenzo Campisi (20th)
 Emily Millard (21st)
 Aston Jenner (24th)
 Lydia Sirgunas (24th)
 Nash Gray (24th)
 Lucinda Burton (25th)
 Evie Trimbonias (25th)
 Eli Vallelonga (25th)
 Chase Bailey-Telford (26th)
 Myla Vining (26th)
 Hendrix Memery (30th)
 Noah Carn (30th)



DATES TO REMEMBER

Term Dates

Term 1 Thursday 29th Jan – Thursday 2nd April
Term 2 Monday 20th April – Friday 26th June
Term 3 Monday 13th July – Friday 18th Sept
Term 4 Monday 5th Oct – Friday 18th Dec

Public Holidays

Labour Day - Monday 9th March
 Good Friday - Friday 3rd April
 Easter Monday - Monday 21st April
 Anzac Day - Saturday 25th April
 King's Birthday - Monday 8th June
 Grand Final Eve - Friday 25th September
 Cup Day - Tuesday 3rd November

School Events

School Photos - Tuesday 18th February
 NAPLAN - Wed 11th to Friday 13th March
 Swimming Program Grades 4 & 6 – Monday 16th to Friday 20th March
 Learning Conferences – Tuesday 24th March
 Cross Country - Thursday 26th March



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is 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. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is 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 is:

- \$154 for primary school students
- \$256 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure

Applications must be submitted to the school by the end of Term 2, 2026

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

