

Grade 2/3 Newsletter

Term 1, 2025

Teachers: Mr James & Miss Willis
ES: Chelsea (2/3 J) & Bridie (2/3 W)

Welcome

Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable break with lots of quality family time over the Summer break. Both classes have had a wonderful start to the year, with lots of exciting learning and events to look forward to over the coming weeks!

A huge thank you to all our families for your support so far this year! It's made such a difference in helping the kids settle in, and both classrooms are off to a great start!

We know Term 1 can be very busy but please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or would like more information. You can always catch us at the gate or send us a compass message to arrange a time.

- Harry, Megan, Chelsea and Bridie



150th

Year

This year, we are celebrating 150 years of Ceres Primary School! It's an exciting milestone, and we can't wait to bring our school community together to celebrate. There will be special events, activities, and opportunities to reflect on our school's rich history.

Stay tuned for more details—we look forward to celebrating with you all!

Morning routine

Term 1 is all about setting up routines and expectations. Students can enter the school and classroom between 8:35-8:45am to unpack their bags, set up for the day, and then head outside to play. If arriving earlier, they must wait in the bus shelter area until supervision begins at 8:35am. On wet days, students

can play inside under teacher supervision.

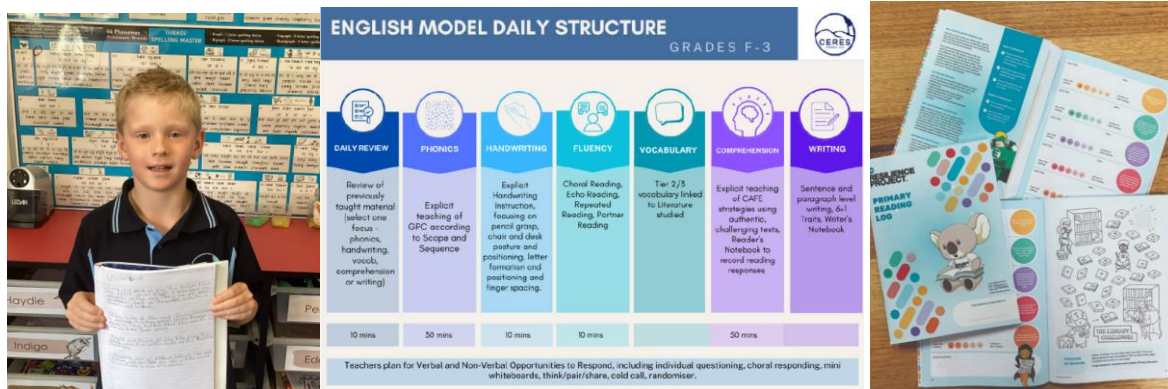
We encourage independence by having students enter the classroom on their own and complete their morning jobs. Some will pick this up quickly, while others may need more time. As the term progresses, we ask parents to drop off at the door or bus shelter to support this transition. If your child needs extra support, please reach out to their teacher so we can work on a plan together. As always, we appreciate your support.

Assembly

Every second Friday at 2:30pm, we have our school assembly. Families are welcome to come along and support our 2/3 students—it makes them so happy to see you there! Each assembly, some students from our class share what we've been learning. If your child is getting an award, your teacher will let your family know. Awards include Principal Awards, Stretch the Brain Awards, and GEM Awards (Resilience Project). We can't wait to see you there!

English

This year, our English program has undergone exciting changes in line with the new Victorian Curriculum 2.0. Unlike previous years, where we dedicated one lesson each to Reading and Writing, we are now implementing a comprehensive 2-hour English block that integrates all aspects of Literacy. Our new English blocks will cover daily reviews, phonics, handwriting, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing, giving our students a well-rounded approach to language development.



Students are strongly encouraged to read daily at home to support their literacy development. To assist with this, we have introduced great new reading logs, created by The Resilience Project, which include a daily reflection. These reflections incorporate our GEM principles of Gratitude, Empathy, and Mindfulness, providing students with a valuable opportunity to engage not only with their literacy skills but also with their emotional wellbeing. This initiative promotes a balanced and holistic approach to learning. Additionally we celebrate students reading nights with certificates starting at 25 reading nights!

Maths

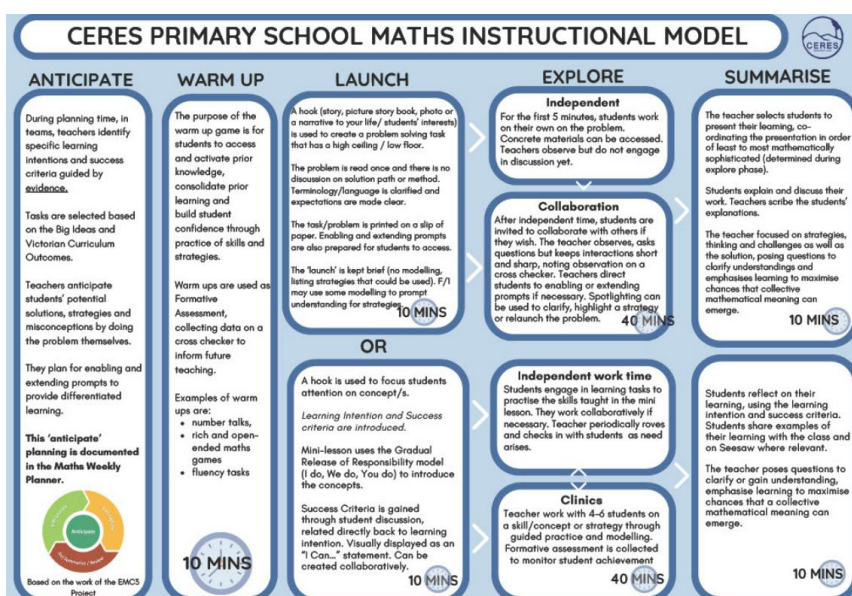
We will be kicking off the Term with a focus on solving a variety of Maths problems through our new '20 days of Maths' framework. During these sessions, students can learn, explore and apply problem solving

strategies such as drawing diagrams, working backwards and creating tables to help scaffold their thinking and problem solving (see example prompts below). Following this, we will dive into **Place Value** and **Shape** before closing out the term with a focus on **Position and Direction**.

These sessions aim to further translate students' understanding of concepts and skills to real life applications in order to enhance their numeracy.

Lessons will follow our regular lesson model of Warm up, Explicit Teaching, Independent Work/ Clinic and Reflection with a Challenging Maths Task implemented regularly throughout the week following our 'Launch/ Explore/ Discuss' model.

It is really important for students at this stage to be confident when recalling basic addition and subtraction sums and there are many great resources to practise this recall (songs, Mathletics live, MyNumeracy games) that your child can use at home. Students can access their Maths learning goals through Seesaw. These will guide their work in class but will also align with MyNumeracy activities that they can access while at home.



Inquiry



This year, our Inquiry learning will explore a range of engaging topics that connect to different curriculum

areas, encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and hands-on experiences.

This term, students will explore their identity, connections to people and places, and the **geography** of Australia. They will also begin an All About Me focus, discovering identity, family, and connections to different places. Through geography, we will investigate maps, locations, and how our surroundings shape who we are.

In Term 2, we will dive into our school's rich **history** as we celebrate its 150th anniversary. Students will learn about changes over time, personal and community histories, and how our local environment has evolved.

Term 3 will focus on **biological science** and living things, their life cycles, and the ways they interact with their environment. Students will explore native plants and animals, linking their learning to sustainability projects within the school.

To finish the year, students will focus on **health**, wellbeing, and personal development in Term 4. They will explore topics such as nutrition, physical activity, and emotional wellbeing while continuing their environmental efforts to enhance our school grounds.

Throughout the year, our environmental focus will be woven into each topic, encouraging students to take pride in their school and make a positive impact on their surroundings. We look forward to an exciting year of learning and discovery!

Values and Resilience Project

Values lessons are a highlight of our Mondays! Each afternoon, we dive into our exciting new 3 R's: Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility. These engaging sessions complement our Respectful Relationships curriculum, making learning both fun and meaningful!

Additionally we have our Resilience Project lessons, happening every second Thursday (see the timetable below). Each student will be working on their very own 'Resilience Project' journal.

Teachers and students will come together for fun, engaging lessons and activities every two weeks, focusing on the key principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM), and Emotional Literacy to build that all-important resilience!

Check out their website for more information:

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/>





Fruit Snack

Due to some small timetable adjustments, students will now be eating their fruit snack during the morning session. As part of their morning routine, they'll need to have their fruit snack ready on their table at the start of each day. To make this easier, we recommend keeping fruit whole or packing it in a separate container. This will help students enjoy their brain food quickly and easily.

Thanks for your support!

Parent information night:

Just a quick reminder about our Parent Information Night coming up soon! We're excited to open up our classroom on the **19th of February** and share all the details about what this year has in store. We'll go over expectations and how we can work together to support the kids. We will start at **3:42pm** and **finish by 4:07pm** to ensure everyone can see each classroom for those with siblings in different year levels.

We can't wait to see you there!

Term 1 Swimming program

The 2025 swimming program will cover water safety, education and confidence around pools, lakes, rivers and beaches. These are important skill for all students to learn. The program will run from 3rd-7th March 2025. Students will be transported each day by bus to Leisurelink Waurn Ponds. Students will need to wear their bathers under their school uniform each day to make the transition into the pool as quick as possible. Those students who do not have permission or payment will have an alternate program at school. Students must commit to all 5 days of swimming (unless arrangements are approved prior to the event for exceptional circumstances or due to absences from illness, etc)

Please refer to the compass event or contact the office/Mr James if you have any questions.

Seesaw

We use the SeeSaw app to keep you informed about what we do at school. On SeeSaw, we share students' weekly spelling words, their spelling tests, learning tasks, and fun updates on our activities. We invite you to get involved by liking and commenting on student posts, cheering them on for their

hard work and achievements. This collaboration helps strengthen the connection between home and school, fostering a supportive learning environment for our students.

ICT & iPads

In line with Department policy, our Acceptable Use Agreement document has been updated for the 2025 school year. Your child's classroom teacher will be going over this in class and discussing it with them before signing it this week (and the following week for those on camp). A copy of this must be signed by students at school to acknowledge the safe and responsible use of online technologies at Ceres Primary. Once signed, this will come home to families where we ask that parents sign the acknowledgement and return to your child's classroom. Teachers will also be discussing the policy with students throughout the term through eSmart lessons.

If you have any questions or issues with connecting or signing in across any of the technology at Ceres Primary School, please don't hesitate to contact the office or our ICT coordinator Mr James.

Houses

At Ceres Primary School, we have two houses—Lok Lok Eagles (Yellow) and Kanyul Kangaroos (Green). Students earn tokens for their house by showing our school values, whether in the classroom or out in the yard. Every fortnight at assembly, our house captains share the latest token tally, keeping the competition fun and exciting! Throughout the year, students will take part in house activities like sports, learning challenges, and more. A big highlight of Term 1 is our House Athletics Day, which is coming up soon! It's a fantastic chance for students to show their house pride, cheer on their friends, and have a great time.



Additional Reminders

TISSUES It would be greatly appreciated if all families could please bring along a box of tissues at the beginning of the year. This allows us to have enough tissues to last all the students throughout the year and assists us with our school budget. A huge thank you to everyone that has already done this!

SUNSCREEN & HAND SANITISER All classrooms have sunscreen and hand sanitiser in them. Students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen when going outside. Students are required to wear their school hat during Term 1 and Term 4. If students do not have their hat at school, they are required to play in an undercover area for the whole of recess and lunch. Please note, teachers will not be rubbing sunscreen on children.

Uniform

TOP CHOICES	BOTTOM CHOICES	ADDITIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checked dress • Short or long sleeve navy blue polo top with school emblem • Two tone sky blue and navy blue windcheater • Navy Blue bomber jacket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy short • Navy skort 	White or navy socks Plain black or white sneakers or black school shoes Ceres Navy blue logo hat

A friendly reminder to please stick to the uniform choices listed above and please do not mix clothing together (ie. pants under a dress).



Dates to Remember for Term 1

Parent Information Night- 19th February (2/3 3:42pm-4:07pm)

Swimming Program- 3rd-7th March

Labour Day Public Holiday- 10th March

School photos- 12th March

NAPLAN starts- 12th March

Whole School Aths Day- 19th March

Planetarium Incursion- 24th March

End of Term 1- 4th April

Timetables

2/3 W

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:45 1	Spelling	English	PE	Maths	English (Spelling test)
9:45-10:45 2	Maths	English	Performing Arts	Resilience Project MARC (10:05-10:45)	English
10:45 -11:10	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:10-12:10 3	English	Maths	English	English	Maths
12:10-1:10 4	English	STEM	Art	English	Maths
1:10-2:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00-3:00 5	Values	Inquiry	English	Inquiry	Class Meeting/Values Assembly (Fortnight)

3/4 J

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:45 1	Spelling	English	Performing Arts	English	English
9:45-10:45 2	Maths	English	PE	English	English
10:45 -11:10	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:10-12:10 3	English	STEM	Art	Resilience Project MARC (11:10-11:50)	Maths
12:10-1:10 4	English	Maths	English	Maths	Maths
1:10-2:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00-3:00 5	Values	Inquiry	English	Inquiry	Class Meeting/Values Assembly (Fortnight)

Meeting times

We are in meetings and unavailable at the following times:

Tuesday 3.15pm- 4:35pm Professional Learning Community Meeting

Wednesday 3:15pm- 4:35pm Staff Briefing/Curriculum-Wellbeing Meeting

Organisation Reminders

- We ask that students all students arrive at school by 8.40am so that they have time to set up their desk, put their diary in the tub, and be ready for independent reading at 8:45.

- A reminder that supervision time starts at 8.35am so students can enter the classroom then.
- Students are expected to bring their iPads to school every day, charged for the day's learning. We do use iPads on most days to complete assessments, research and post on Seesaw.
- If picking up or dropping off your child during class time please sign them in/out at the office. A staff member will call their classroom to make their way up to the office.
- If you are parked on the other side of the carpark, please ensure your child crosses the road safely. We also remind you that the carpark is on a major arterial road and that parking in the left hand turning lane puts everyone's safety at risk.
- Assemblies are now held each fortnight at 2:30pm on a Friday (this Term they are on odd weeks). We will contact you if your child is receiving an award.



CPS Values for the Whole Child: Respect | Resilience | Responsibility

Ceres Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse (Child Safe Standards).

Disclaimer: Staff at Ceres Primary School access their work emails between 8:35am - 4:35pm (Monday to Wednesday) 8:35am - 3:35pm (Thursday and Friday) and will endeavour to respond within 48 hours. Staff are not expected to respond in this timeframe during weekends, public holidays and term breaks.