



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

As we wrap up an exceptional Term 1, I am thrilled to share the highlights of our journey so far. Our students, both new and returning, have settled into the academic year with enthusiasm and resilience. Their commitment to learning and growth has been truly inspiring.

Our senior students embarked on an exciting adventure this week as they headed off to camp. During their time away, they will not only forge lasting friendships but also develop essential life skills. Teamwork, independence, and problem-solving are at the heart of their camp experience. I can't wait to hear their stories when they return on Thursday!

On the home front, the building renovations are nearly complete. Our school now boasts a fresh and vibrant space that reflects our commitment to excellence. Parents, get ready to be amazed when you visit once we have settled into the space. We look forward to showcasing our new environment and celebrating this milestone with you.

In addition to these exciting developments, I'm delighted to announce that we have successfully completed our 4-yearly review. This comprehensive assessment allowed us to reflect on our progress, identify areas for growth, and set ambitious goals for the next four years. Our new targets encompass both student academic performance and wellbeing. It's heartening to note that we achieved nearly all the goals we set four years ago, demonstrating our collective dedication to our students' success.

As we approach the school holidays, I want to extend warm wishes to all our families. May this break be filled with joy, relaxation, and quality time together. We eagerly anticipate welcoming everyone back for an even more exciting Term 2.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our wonderful students. Together, we create a nurturing and empowering environment where every child can thrive.

Warm regards,
Lee Bullock
Principal

TERM DATES 2024

Term 1: Term 1: Tuesday 30 January – Thursday 28 March

Term 2: Monday 15 April – Friday 28 June

Term 3: Tuesday 15 July – Friday 20 September

Term 4: Monday 7 October – Friday 20 December

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

TERM 1

Thu 21 March – Harmony Day

Thu 28 March - Last day of Term 1 – Early finish at 2pm

TERM 2

Mon 15 April – STUDENT-FREE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Fri 19 April – Fri 21 June - Swimming Program (Every Friday)

Wed 24 April – Anzac Day Ceremony

Thu 25 April – Anzac Day Public Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wed 1 May – Tue 7 May – Deaf Awareness week

Mon 6 – Fri 10 May – Mother's Day Stall

Fri 10 May – Mother's Day celebration

Tue 14 May - Hearing Australia Visit

Thu 16 May – ES Appreciation Day

Thu 16 May – Thur 20 June (every Thursday) Auslan for families

Wed 22 May – National Simultaneous Story Time

Mon 27 May - STUDENT-FREE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Mon 27 – Fri 31 May – Reconciliation Week

Mon 10 June – Kings Birthday Public Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

Mon 24 June - School SSG Meetings

Fri 28 June – Last day of Term 2 – Early finish at 2pm

TERM 3

Mon 15 July – STUDENT-FREE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Fri 19 July – School Photo Day

Thu 1 August – Principal Appreciation Day

Fri 16 August – Hearing Australia visit

Mon 19 – Fri 23 August – Book Week: Reading is Magic

Mon 26 – Fri 30 August – Father's Day Stall

Mon 26 August – Fri 30 August – Smile Squad – Free Dental program visits

Fri 30 August - Father's Day Celebration



UPCOMING EVENTS 2024 CONT...

Thu 12 September – R U OK Day

Mon 16 September & Thu 19 September – School SSG Meetings via WebEx

Wed 18 September – Tue 24 September – National Week of Deaf People

Fri 20 September – Last day of Term 3 – Early finish at 2pm

TERM 4

Fri 25 October – Teacher Appreciation Day

Mon 4 November - STUDENT-FREE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Tue 5 November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thu 14 November – School Music Concert

Wed 20 November – Deaf Sports Day

Fri 22 November – Hearing Australia Visit

Mon 9 December – School SSG Meetings

Tue 10 December – Last day for Caterpillars 3-year-old program

Fri 13 December – Butterflies 4-year-old program Graduation & last day

Fri 20 December – End of year party

Fri 20 December – Last day of Term 4 – Early finish at 2pm

BUILDING PLANS UPDATE

Now that we have settled into our new classroom area, the next stage is preparing for the opening of our new Multipurpose room, Art Studio and Messy Lab! The renovation has been underway, and we anticipate we will be able to use the space from April 2024. This is the last stage to be completed of our multimillion-dollar makeover.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

It seems we have a good reputation across the seas as we have been lucky enough to welcome three new students this year who have recently relocated from New Zealand and have all come from the same school for Deaf children. We extend a warm welcome to Zaheen, Marley & Armani and endeavour to support them as they have embarked on their educational journey with us.



STAFF UPDATE

This year we have welcomed six new staff members to our team.

Charlotte has joined Room 8 as Education Support. She brings a fresh perspective and great enthusiasm to our school community. Her dedication to student success makes her a valuable asset.

With a wealth of prior teaching experience under her belt, Theresa has stepped into her new role as the teacher for Room 1. Her passion for teaching and dedication to student success shines through in her interactions, making her a trusted and respected educator within our community.

Jessica is a familiar face as she was the supervisor on Bus 3 and has been for over a year. Jessica has shown an interest in learning Auslan to better support communication with the students on their journey to and from school and being involved in the education of our students. This has led her heart to become an Education Support staff at Furlong Park. She has transitioned seamlessly into her new role supporting the students in Room 1.

Niina is our Inclusion Outreach Coordinator and will be not only supporting inclusive practices at Furlong Park, but will work in neighboring mainstream schools throughout the week to support their leadership teams in ensuring their schools are inclusive of all children's needs.

Kai is our newly appointed Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. This is the first time we have had a staff member who will be supporting individual students, helping teachers better identify and support at-risk students, and build relationships and referral pathways to local mental health services. Kai has a wealth of knowledge and brings a unique perspective to our school community. We are excited to have Kai to Furlong Park and know he will make a positive impact.

Billie teaches all our students twice a week for their Environmental Science specialist subject. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. She is looking forward to transforming our new space outside the classrooms to a beautiful new garden including growing vegetables with the children. They will also be looking at our environment and sustainability, ensuring Furlong Park are doing everything we can to reduce waste and our impact on the environment.

Let's give a big warm welcome to our wonderful new staff members.



Charlotte



Theresa



Jessica



Niina



Kai



Billie



We say farewell to Brodie-Jean, our Education Support who has been at Furlong Park for several years. Brodie-Jean has been a great support to both our students and staff, and she will be greatly missed as she takes on a new working opportunity.

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATION FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL



Our school council is made up of three parent members, one community member, and one staff member. We would like to thank Tracey Edwards, Gemma Kostiw & Louise Randall for their contribution over the past year. Gemma has recently left the school and her position is up for nomination. School council meet 8 times per year and helps to make decisions around budgets and the direction of the school. No experience is necessary though a dedication to attend all meetings is important. If you would like more information, please contact Lee in the office this week. If you would like to be on school council, a nomination form will need to be completed. If we have more than two nomination forms, we will go to a ballot.

NEW UNIFORM ITEMS!

With the cooler weather soon approaching, we've decided to introduce a new uniform item to our shop. It will keep your children dry when the rain starts to pour and warm when the cold air starts to give them goosebumps. The Walker Dry & Cosy Jacket features elastic cuffs, a zip front with a storm flap, front patch pockets to keep the hands warm and a concealed hood in its collar.

We currently have limited stock available for first come, first serve orders in sizes 4-16.

Pre-orders will then be taken. Once an order has been made it can take up to 2 weeks before the item arrives, however we must receive a minimum of 10 orders from parents/carers before we are able to proceed with an order of the items. We recommend that this is an additional layer to children's jumpers so it may be worth purchasing one size up from their regular size.

Cost of the jacket is \$40.00.

Also coming soon are our Red Communication Bags and Summer Hats with logos. Should you require a replacement communication bag, you will be able to purchase a new one for \$8.50. Summer hats will be available for \$13.00.



SECONDHAND UNIFORM

We strongly encourage families to donate any uniform that your child no longer wears. We accept any uniform item if they are in good condition and there is no visible damage. Secondhand uniform is available to families at no cost. Sizing and items varies depending on what is donated. You may enquire by calling the school office or sending an email to the school email address.



ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to read our school's collection notice, found on our website <http://www.furlongpark.vic.edu.au/about-us/school-plan-policies/>

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education safely](#) at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese



HEALTHY SWIMMING

Swimming is a great way to stay fit and active, and an important skill for life. As our school participates in swimming programs, it's important we all take steps to stop the spread of germs at the pool.

This summer, the Victorian Department of Health advises there has been an [increase in the number of people infected with cryptosporidiosis \(crypto\)](#) – a type of gastroenteritis. Some people are attending pools while infectious, which spreads the infection to others.

To keep pools safe and clean for everyone, please follow these healthy swimming steps before we dive into the pool:

- do not swim if you have diarrhoea
- shower and wash with soap before swimming
- wash your hands with soap after using the toilet
- avoid swallowing pool water
- change nappies in nappy-change areas only.

Please encourage your child to follow the above steps to support everyone's safety in pools. Please also keep your child absent from swimming lessons at school if they have had gastroenteritis or diarrhoea in the 14 days before the lesson.

Families with any health concerns should see their doctor or contact [NURSE-ON-CALL](#) by phone: 1300 606 024 (available 24 hours).

Find out more

For more information on protecting against gastroenteritis, families can refer to the following Better Health Channel pages:

- [Healthy swimming](#), including a video with transcript
- [Swimming – keeping the water clean](#)
- [Gastroenteritis in children](#).



FRIDAY LUNCH ORDERS ARE BACK!

Friday lunch orders have commenced and occur every Friday during the school term.

Should you like to put in a lunch order, please follow the steps below:

1. Check out the menu items attached
2. On a brown paper bag (or any other packaging suitable to write your order down and enclose cash) write the following:
 - Childs name
 - Room number
 - List of menu items
 - Cost of menu items
 - Total order amount
3. Place the cash inside the bag
4. Place the lunch order in your childs bag
5. Your child will pop their lunch order in the lunch basket upon their arrival to school in the morning

Students will receive their lunch orders in time for first play at 11 am.

You can find the lunch order menu on our [website](#)



HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL: BUILD THE HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE EARLY SCHOOL SUCCESS GOES HAND IN HAND WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE!

Did you know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.

Good attendance will help children do well in high school, tertiary education and at work



What you can do

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots
- Introduce your child to teachers and classmates before school starts to help transition

- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick
- Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counsellors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbour, or another parent
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS TO BUY SWIMWEAR INCLUDING MODESTY SWIMWEAR

Our swimming program begins in the first week of Term 2 and will run every Friday until 21st June.

Eligible families can receive support to cover the cost of swimwear, including modesty swimwear, through the Affordable School Uniforms program delivered by [State Schools' Relief](#).

People from culturally and linguistically diverse communities are overrepresented in drowning statistics. Making modesty swimwear available supports all students to become more involved in swimming and water safety education.

Should you require any support please contact the office to apply.



DEAF SPORTS DAY – WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024

We welcome all family members to come and support our children at our annual Deaf sports day. This is an opportunity for our students to meet and compete against hundreds of Deaf and hard of hearing students from around Victoria.



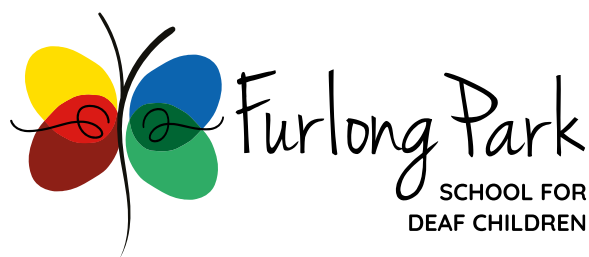
**PRIMARY SCHOOL
DEAF & HARD OF HEARING
ATHLETICS DAY**

WEDNESDAY 10am - 2pm
20TH NOV '24 Doncaster Athletics Club
125a George Street, Doncaster East

For more information email - sportvic@deafsports.org.au





**THE FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS
ARE FROM ORGANISATIONS
OUTSIDE OF FURLONG PARK
SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN.**





Brimbank Libraries
Imagine, Explore, Discover, Connect



Bookings open:
10 March

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Tuesday 2 - Sunday 14 April
Scan to see program



brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au
Join your local library today





**AUS CHILD
DEAFNESS**

**COMMUNITY
ADVISORY
GROUP**

Expressions of interest are now open to join the
Aus Child Deafness CAG

This is a group of family members of children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing who are interested in engaging with researchers on projects relating to childhood deafness in Australia.

For more information email auschilddeafness-cag@mcri.edu.au
or visit redcap.link/I23inpvb to access the Expression of Interest form.



ANCHOR

*Australian National Child Hearing
Health Outcomes Registry*





SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

APRIL
2024



featuring:

Come along!

Join Australia Deaf Games Football Captain, Sam Grotorex, and DSRV staff, for a fun-filled school holiday program in April! (Auslan interpreted)

WHO: For deaf & hard of hearing kids, ages 6-16 years (CODA/family welcome)

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL
@BRAYBROOK, 9AM-3PM

Braybrook RecWest
39 Lily Street, Braybrook



WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL
@ENDEAVOUR HILLS, 9AM-3PM

Endeavour Hills Leisure Centre
10 Raymond McMahon Boulevard



Braybrook registration: www.revolutionise.com.au/deafsportaustralia/events/227907

Endeavour Hills registration: www.revolutionise.com.au/deafsportaustralia/events/227910

CONTACT: Tom Dent, DSRV | sportvic@deafsports.org.au



Brimbank Libraries
Imagine, Explore, Discover, Connect

School

Holiday Program

Tue 2 - Sun 14 Apr

Easter Events

	Deer Park	Keilor	St Albans	Sunshine	Sydenham
Tue 26 Mar					Easter Activities 4 - 5pm
Wed 27 Mar	Easter Activities 4 - 5pm		Easter Egg Hunt 4-7pm Easter Activities 3.45 - 4.45pm		
Thu 28 Mar		Easter Activities 4 - 5pm		Easter Activities 4 - 5pm	

Bookings open for events:

10 Mar, 9am

Book online www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au
or call your local library



April Events



Kevin Flint Memorial Park

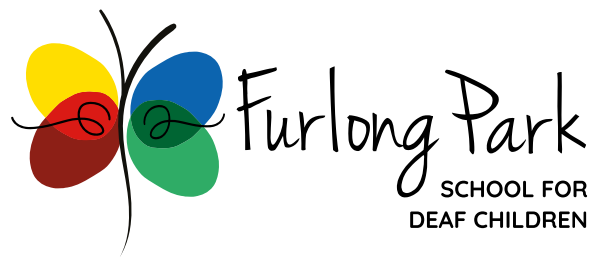
Wed 10 Apr

Water Bug Detectives
10.30-11.30am

April Events

	Deer Park	Keilor	St Albans	Sunshine	Sydenham
Tue 2 Apr		Butterfly House 1-2pm			
Wed 3 Apr	Holiday Movies 2-4pm		Silly Science 10am-1pm Liquid Nitrogen Show 1-2pm	Science Discovery Dome 10am-12noon	
Thu 4 Apr	Gross Science Workshop 10.30-11.30				
Fri 5 Apr			Holiday Movies 11.30am-1.30pm		Butterfly House 10.30-11.30am
Mon 8 Apr				Holiday Movies 11.30am-1.30pm	
Tue 9 Apr	Museum Victoria 2-3pm				Liquid Nitrogen Show 10.30-11.30pm Holiday Movies 2.30-4.30pm
Wed 10 Apr	Holiday Movies 2-4pm		Mario Kart Games Tournament 10.30-12noon	DIY Wooden Plane Workshop 1-2pm	
Thu 11 Apr		Polynesian Infusion 1-1.50pm			
Fri 12 Apr			Mosaic Pot Decorating & Plant Workshop 10.30-11.30am Holiday Movies 11.30am-1.30pm		





A vibrant poster for the School Holiday Program. The background is a bright pink color, framed by a lush border of green leaves and various colorful flowers (white, pink, purple, blue, yellow). In the top left corner, there is a black box with the text "Brimbank Libraries" and "Imagine, Explore, Discover, Connect". In the top right corner, there is a black box with the Brimbank City Council logo and name. The main text in the center reads "SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM" in large, white, bold, sans-serif letters, followed by "Tuesday 2 - Sunday 14 April" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The overall design is cheerful and inviting.



Brimbank Libraries
Imagine, Explore, Discover, Connect



RETURN YOURSELF TO THE LIBRARY



Join Brimbank Libraries today – there is no charge to become a member!
Scan the QR to join online



What your membership gets you!

- 80** Borrow up to 80 Items
-  Access the Toy Library
-  Computers & WIFI
-  Online Library
-  Library Events

Top Online Library Resources for Children:

- **10 Monkeys:**
Have fun and practice maths with the monkeys!
- **Borrow Box:**
Download eBooks and eAudiobooks anytime.
- **StoryBox Library**
Watch, read and learn with Australia's favourite Authors.
- **LOTE 4 Kids:**
Stories in over 40 languages

Deer Park 4 Neale Road, 9249 4660	Keilor 704B Old Calder Highway, 9249 4670	St Albans 71A Alfrieda Street, 9249 4650	Sunshine 301 Hampshire Road, 9249 4640	Sydenham 1 Station Street, Taylors Lakes, 9249 4680
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brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au



WHAT'S ON!

Be amazed and discover new worlds with our wonder world of activities.



Bookings

Scan the QR code
Visit: www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au or
Call your local library.

Bookings
open:
10 March

Easter Activities

Let's get crafty as we celebrate a week of Easter activities.

Butterfly House

Meet butterflies up close and create your own butterfly mask to take home.

Science Discovery Dome - Planetary Sessions

Go on a journey through time and space! Learn about the solar system and take a guided tour of the night sky inside a huge indoor planetarium.

DIY Wooden Airplane Workshop

Take flight as we make our own wooden planes with Bunnings Warehouse.

Liquid Nitrogen Show

Come along and learn about the magical science behind how liquid nitrogen and dry ice works, explore chemical reactions, and create your own instant ice cream!

Silly Science Show

Professor Q.E. Done presents the Silly Science Show where he uses his circus skills to demonstrate and explain the scientific forces behind gravity, equilibrium and surface tension

Gross Science Workshop

Let's get messy with our Gross Science party! Not for the faint-hearted, all sorts of goeey, yucky science is covered. Learn how to create slimy snot and pop zits, just to name a few!

Museums Victoria - Pop Up Museum

Museums Victoria is coming to Brimbank - Explore a range of fossils, collection objects, taxidermy and much more!

Polynesian Infusion

Learn some of the many ways Polynesians use music and dance to tell their stories.

Mosaic Pot Decorating and Planting

Get creative as we learn the art of mosaic decorating with Bunnings Warehouse in a DIY pot plant workshop.

Easter Egg Hunt

Starting at St Albans Library on Wednesday March 27, pick up your Easter Egg Hunt Kit as the hunt begins!

Mario Kart Games Tournament

Battle it out to be crowned the Mario Kart champion at our Mario Kart tournament.

Holiday Movies

You bring the snacks, we've got the movies sorted these holidays!

Water bug Detectives

Take a walk on the wild side with our guided nature walk and hands-on waterbug activity.

Become a 'citizen scientist', learn how to identify the different animals and plants that call Kevin Flint Memorial Park home.

