

Edition 1 7th February 2025

IN THE LOOP



We welcome all our Lalor North Primary School Community back to school.

Its wonderful to see all students happy and excited about being back.

Thank you to all the staff and families for their positivity and kindness.

Acknowledgement to Country

We are learning on Wurundjeri Country and in the spirit of reconciliation, Lalor North Primary School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are learning. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Important Dates

2025

Week 3, Term 1

Tuesday 11th February – RACV Safety Squad for Prep Grades

Wednesday 12th February – Prep Assessments

(Prep assessments – preps with appointments to attend only)

Wednesday 12th February – Playgroup 9am-10am

Thursday 13th February – Breakfast Club Begins

Friday 14th February – Interschool Sport (training)

Week 4, Term 1

Wednesday 19th February – Prep Assessments

(Prep assessments – preps with appointments to attend only)

Wednesday 19th February – Playgroup 9am-10am

Wednesday 19th February – Athletics Day consent forms to be returned

Thursday 20th February – Breakfast Club

Friday 21st February – Interschool Sport

Friday 21st February – Newsletter

Week 5, Term 1

Monday 24th February – Whole School Athletics Day

Tuesday 25th February – School Council AGM

Wednesday 26th February – Final Day of Prep Assessments

(Prep assessments – preps with appointments to attend only)

Wednesday 26th February – Playgroup

Thursday 27th February – Breakfast Club

Friday 28th February – Interschool Sport

Our School Values

Honesty

We communicate openly and work together to solve problems. By demonstrating honesty and acting with integrity we build trust, which enables us to collaborate, to take greater risks with our learning and to be more resilient when things go wrong.

Respect

We respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviour have an impact on the people around us.

Unity

We have many languages, come from many backgrounds and are a school of many differences, but we speak with one voice, as one school.

We develop a sense of connection and belonging within each part of our school, and across the whole school.

Success

We help each other learn so that everyone experiences success every day. Success means doing new things, learning new skills, finding new ways of thinking and solving interesting, complex and challenging problems.

Resilience

We know trying new things, experiencing challenges and bouncing back from adversity are central to life and to learning. Only by building our resilience can we experience strong levels of growth.



Principal's Message

Welcome Back... to all our families and a HUGE welcome back to our students.

It was so very exciting to see our students starting school last Thursday morning. There was a flutter of happiness mixed with anticipation, but overall so many smiley faces. We have several children transferring into the school at various year levels and to these children and families a special welcome also. We feel honoured to have you with us.

After many weeks of holidays, it is important for families to establish good routines to enable children to be at school on time so they can undertake their learning in an enthusiastic and energised manner. Good routines certainly help reduce stressful and upsetting situations. Routines also support students to settle into school, make friends and engage in learning.

New Preps Starting School

Last Thursday, we also proudly welcomed our 2025 Grade Prep students for their very first official day at Lalor North Primary School, and what a day it was! It was heartwarming to see the prep area filled with excitement, smiles, and a few nerves – all part of the wonderful experience of change that comes with starting school. While the first day was a little overwhelming, I am thrilled to say that our new Prep students are quickly settling into their new routine, showing incredible resilience and curiosity. It is clear that they're ready to dive into the adventure of learning and growing together.

A week later we can certainly say that we are so proud of our newest students and can't wait to watch them grow throughout the year. Also, a big thank you to all the parents who have been wonderful to work with and settle the students into their new environment.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you this year and future years.



Mobile Phone Policy

Just a reminder to families of the Department and School's mobile phone policy. This policy also covers smart watches, even when placed in school mode. Phones and watches are required to be handed to the teacher at the start of the day. These devices will then be safely secured away and handed back to students at the end of the school day.



At Lalor North Primary School, we believe that **student leadership** is an essential part of our school community, helping to foster a sense of responsibility, empowerment, and belonging. Our student leaders play a crucial role in shaping the culture of our school, and their impact extends far beyond just the classroom.

Student leadership helps cultivate key life skills such as communication, problem-solving and teamwork. By taking on leadership roles our students are given the opportunity to lead by example, encourage their peers, and contribute to a positive school environment. Over the next week we will be meeting with our Student Representative Council after the class has elected their representative to establish what the new SRC wants to accomplish in 2025.

We look forward to providing further details of the work these students will be involved in as we celebrate the dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership of our students. This important work continues to shape the culture of Lalor North Primary School.



Annual privacy reminder for our school community

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

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

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [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 please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#).

Volunteer Registration Information

In the next few weeks, parent volunteer information will be distributed. Outlined in the information will be what are the requirements around being a parent volunteer. In accordance with Departments volunteer and OHS policies this is an annual requirement, which must be completed each year. Please register your name at the school office.



Important Notes Coming Home

A range of paper notes will be sent home including:

- ICT User Agreement
- Whole Athletics Day (sent)
- Interschool Sport Note (sent)
- Photography Consent (sent)
- Swimming (ready for term 2)
- Term Outlines (explaining what your child will be learning this term)

DON'T FORGET!

These notes also represent changes to recent Department policy, hence why they may look different than previous years. Please complete and return all notes as soon as possible to the classroom teacher.

Curriculum Days

On Tuesday and Wednesday last week, our staff gathered for two days of professional learning. These two days were packed with lots of learning that supports our students. Our amazing staff demonstrated professionalism and commitment to the following areas that were covered by our two days:

- Curriculum Updates from the Department of Education
- Strategies for improving our overall student attendance
- Reading and discussing our Child Safety & Wellbeing Policy
- CPR training
- First Aid Training
- Teaching Phonics Training
- Child Safe standards

In the next few weeks all staff will be participating in:

- Anaphylaxis Training
- Diabetes Training
- OHS Safety Induction for staff

It is a really important part of our learning to be able to care for our students to the highest possible level. All staff at Lalor North Primary School are first Aid & CPR Trained which is costly but I believe absolutely necessary as Principal of our wonderful school.



School Gates

Last year we communicated in our newsletters the changes that we would be implementing for unlocking our school gates before and after school.

Child safety is at the highest of our priorities at all time. At Lalor North Primary School, we believe that all children have the right to feel safe as well as be safe and protected. To have a greater consistency at our school when it comes to locking and unlocking our gates in the morning and afternoons, it has been decided that school leadership (staff) will take on this responsibility.

Our new process ensures that:

- Students don't run out of the school.
- Strangers don't have the opportunity to enter our school grounds and use the facilities.
- Improves safety of students as they attend to the toilets.
- Staff supervision is in place outside when gates are unlocked.
- A process that ensures safety for all of our students at all times as a part of our duty of care.

The 2025 School Gates Process

The Monash Street gate will be opened at 8.35am and locked at 9.05am in the morning. Any late students will need to report to the office and enter via Derna Street - Gate 2.

The Derna Street gate (gate 3) will be locked at 9am and unlocked at 3.30pm. Any late students will need to report to the office and enter via Derna Street Gate 2.

This will ensure that our school environment will be safer as gates will always be locked and secure in a consistent manner. Students that are late will need to enter through Gate 2 on Derna Street and collect a late pass at the office.

Student Book Packs

All students book packs have arrived at the school and have been distributed to students. It was so very exciting to our students to have all the resources that they need for their success!

Overall, we had the majority of our parents make parent payments (almost 80%). Parent Payment contributions go towards the educational needs of the students. We will make contact with the few remaining families who still have the opportunity to make payments through the office should they choose to do so.

Elizabeth Bryan, Amanda Lee & Kim Rotondi

SCHOOL SAFETY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



From the Office



Happy New Year to all students and families!

It has been wonderful to see the smiling faces of our students ready to begin a successful and fulfilling 2025 school year!

Reminders.....

Whole School Athletics Day

The LNPS Whole School Athletics Carnival is being held at the Meadowglen Athletics Stadium on Monday 24th February 2025. Students can wear a coloured top or t-shirt and head/wrist bands of their allocated house colour (red, blue, green or yellow). If they do not wear a top of their house colour they will be required to wear school uniform. If your child is unsure which colour house they belong to, please contact the office. **Please ensure that the consent form and payment are returned to school by Wednesday 19th February.**

Photography Consent Forms

The LNPS Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Consent Form has been sent home to all families. Please read the categories listed then indicate your opt-in consent by using the tick boxes at the bottom of the form and return to the office ASAP. If you have any queries regarding this form, please contact the school on 9465 4922 to discuss. If you would like to withdraw or change your consent at any time, you must notify us via email on lalor.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au or by phone on 9465 4922.

Interschool Sports Program

This year, students in Grades 5 & 6 will be participating in the Lalor Districts Interschool Sports Program during Terms 1, 2 and 4, beginning on Friday 14th February. **Consent forms and payment for this program are required to be returned to the office by Wednesday 12th February.** Please contact the office with any queries on 9465 4922.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts on **Thursday 13th of February**, if you would like your child to participate in this program, please sign the consent form that was sent home last week and return to the office. Students are able to join in the Breakfast Club at any stage of the year, please contact our office if you require another consent form.

Diana, Liz and Barbara



Lalor North Primary School

Respect Honesty Unity Success Resilience

Student Free Days for 2025



Term 1

Tuesday 28th January – Curriculum Day 1

Wednesday 29th January – Curriculum Day 2

Tuesday 11th March – Parent Teacher Meetings 11-8pm (Pupil Free)

Term 2

Thursday 24th April – Curriculum Day 3

Friday 6th June – Report Writing Day

Term 3

Wednesday 20th August – Curriculum Day 4

Wednesday 17th September – Parent Teacher Meetings 11-8pm (Pupil Free)

Term 4

Monday 3rd November – Professional Practice Day

Please Note:

The Days were selected that would pose the least amount of disruption to the student teaching and learning focus. Consideration of spreading things out evenly across the school. Also maintaining our ability to report to parents each term of the year as follows:

- Term 1: Parent Teacher Student Meetings
- Term 2: Mid-Year Reports released
- Term 3: Parent Teacher Student meetings
- Term 4: End of Year Reports released

School Saving Bonus reminder and support

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of \$400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

The SSB helps families cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, excursions, activities and more.

Most families have now received their SSB code(s). You are encouraged to take advantage of this government support. To learn more about the SSB online system, download the step-by-step [System guide for parents and carers \(DOCX, 945KB\)](#) or watch this [School Saving Bonus video](#). [System guide translations](#) are also available in 14 languages.

If you would like to use your bonus for school activities, you can allocate some or all of the bonus using the [School Saving Bonus online system](#).

If you have only recently completed your enrolment into the Victorian government school system you can expect to receive your SSB code(s) in the coming weeks.

If you have transferred to our school from another Victorian government school, any remaining funds on your SSB code(s) will soon be available to use at our approved school suppliers. We request your patience as this change is processed.

The Department of Education has established a dedicated contact centre to support the SSB. The contact centre can be reached by:

- completing the [School Saving Bonus enquiry form](#)
- calling 1800 338 663, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays.

VICTORIAN ATTENDANCE LEGISLATION

In Victoria, it is compulsory for children and young people aged 6–17 years to attend school.

Parents are legally required to ensure their child attends school every day and to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school unless an exemption from attendance has been granted or an exception to their attendance applies.

Evidence shows that daily school attendance is important for young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally. Young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health and employment outcomes and enjoy higher incomes.

The law provides a framework for school's attendance, exemptions and exceptions from attendance and parents' obligations relating to ensuring attendance. The rules are not in place to punish students' time away from school, which can be unavoidable. Instead, the laws are an effort to promote and improve student attendance across Victorian schools.

2025 Whole School Assembly Dates

Term 1 Week 6: Friday 7 th March Week 9: Friday 28 th March	Term 2 Week 2: Friday 2nd May Week 8: Friday 13th June
Term 3 Week 2: Friday 1st August Week 8: Friday 5th September	Term 4 Week 1: Friday 10th October Week 5: Friday 7th November Week 9: Friday 5th December

2025 Student Leaders

School Captains for 2025

Natalia S & Mateo R

School Vice Captains for 2025

Haoyu (Orson) Y, Gabriella V, Amen M, Katina P

Sports Captains

Ali A, Tiahna W, Mason P, Joshua S, Mason B

Italian Captains

Baran G, Annabelle S, Lillian E

Art Captains

Nerina L, Kassia I

Library Captains

Simona P, Filip L, Alirrah G, Ahmed Mo

Digital Technology Captains

Jayden C, Mehardeep S, Taylan K, Paramvir R, Orlando P

Sustainability Captains

Danniella D, Maryam A, Charlotte M

Gate Monitors

Matija S, Leo P, Emilia M, Makary P, Maggie K, Charlotte M, Alexander J, Gabriella V, Martin S

Flag Monitors

Ahmed Mu, Fahmi M, Lukas R, Viraj S, Luka Z, Orlando P

Fruit Monitors

Danya M, Mahmoud M, Alexis T, Alexi P

Understanding phonics: a helpful guide for families, parents and carers

Reading is a foundational life skill and a source of pleasure and wonder.

It is one of the most important skills children learn and the teaching of **phonics** plays an important role in helping them become confident, fluent readers.

This guide will help you understand what phonics is, why it is important in learning to read, and how children can be supported at home to develop their awareness of sounds, and of the relationships between sounds and letters.

What is phonics?

Phonics includes linking sounds (called 'phonemes') to their corresponding letters (called 'graphemes'). Students read words by recognising the relationships between written symbols and their corresponding sounds.

Phonics is one of 6 components that make up a comprehensive reading program.

The other components are:

Oral language	Knowing and using spoken words to express knowledge, ideas and emotions
Phonemic awareness	The knowledge of sounds (phonemes)
Vocabulary	Understanding words in isolation and in context
Fluency	Reading accurately and at an appropriate rate with expression
Comprehension	Making meaning from text which includes developing knowledge of grammar

These are the foundational skills that have a reciprocal relationship and are all necessary to enable students to independently read and respond to increasingly complex fiction and non-fiction texts.

Why is phonics instruction important?

Research and evidence show that phonics instruction is a highly effective way to teach children to read. It helps them develop **decoding skills** (translating printed words into speech), which assist in reading unfamiliar words. Phonics gives many children the tools to figure out new words and understand spelling patterns, building their reading fluency and comprehension.

How is phonics taught in schools?

The key elements of phonics are:

- 1. Phonemes:** the smallest units of sound in speech (e.g., the sound /k/ in 'cat').
- 2. Graphemes:** the letters, or groups of letters, that represent these sounds (e.g., the letter 'c' in 'cat').
- 3. Blending:** combining individual sounds together to read a word (e.g., /c/ /a/ /t/ = 'cat').
- 4. Segmenting:** breaking down words into their individual sounds to spell them (eg., chat = /ch/a/t).

Phonics is taught through a structured, sequential approach where children learn the simplest sounds (such as /s/, /a/, and /t/ and gradually move to more complex sound-letter patterns (such as /ee/, as in the sound in the word 'bee' and /oa/ as in the sound in the word 'cloak'). This is known as teaching **using a systematic, synthetic phonics** approach. In simple terms, children learn different sounds, then practice blending sounds together to read words.

The Academy is grateful to Parents Victoria for their expert advice in producing this guide



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NO HAT? PLAY IN THE



Being SunSmart in Victoria



When **UV is 3+**

-  Slip on covering clothing
-  Slop on SPF50, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
-  Slap on a broad-brimmed hat
-  Seek shade
-  Slide on sunglasses (AS:1067)

Think UV, not heat! UV rays can't be seen or felt and can damage your skin on cool or cloudy days.

When **UV is below 3** Sun protection isn't required unless you are outdoors for extended periods or near reflective surfaces, such as snow.



Download the SunSmart Global UV app to find sun protection times for your location.

March 2023



Scan the QR code or visit sunsmart.com.au/app to download





Item	Sizes Available	Price
 Summer Dress <i>Bottle green & white</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$29.00
 Cotton Back Short Sleeve Polo <i>Emerald with black panels, white piping and black collar with emerald and white stripes (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$35.00 \$38.00
 Rugby Knit Shorts - Unisex <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$21.00
 Microfibre Shorts - Unisex <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Sml - Med - Lge - XL	\$30.00 \$33.00
 Cotton Back Long Sleeve Polo <i>Emerald with black panels, white piping and black collar and cuffs with emerald and white stripes (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$37.00 \$40.00
 Hooded Top <i>Black with green sleeves and green insert in hood with black bands with green and white stripes on bands (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$48.00 \$51.00
 Bomber Jacket <i>Black with green sleeves and black bands with green and white stripes on bands (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$52.00 \$55.00
 Straight leg Track Pants <i>Cotton/Polyester Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$28.00
 Fleecy Double knee trackpants with cuff <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$25.00
 Fleecy straight leg trackpants <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$24.00
 Waterproof Jacket Fleecy Lined <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$52.00
 Bucket Hat <i>Black</i>	XSm 53cm Sm 55cm Med 57cm Lge 59cm XLg 61cm	\$12.00
 School Bag <i>Black</i>	One size	\$45.00
 Warm Beanie <i>Black</i>	One size fits all	\$12.00
 Grade 6 Cotton Back S/Sleeve Polo Top - Green/White/Black Special Order Available only Oct/Nov	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$52.00 \$56.00



Lalor North Primary School Uniform

The purposes of the school uniform are to distinguish the school in public, build a school identity, help build an inclusive environment and to provide parents with cost effective and convenient clothing for school.

Lalor North Primary School has a compulsory school uniform. It must be worn at school, on excursions, at sporting activities and any other special occasions where students represent the school. It's important that every student feels comfortable and has a sense of belonging to our learning community while feeling pride about being a member of our school community each school day.

A PLUS SCHOOLWEAR

Northern Regional Uniforms Shop

Address: Unit 3 /30 Heaths Court Mill Park

Contact: [03 9436 4005](tel:0394364005)

Email: info@northernregionaluniforms.com.au

Trading Hours:

Monday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Tuesday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Friday: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Closed Sundays and Public Holidays.

For Online Orders

Website Details: www.aplusschoolwear.com.au

Parking and safety around schools

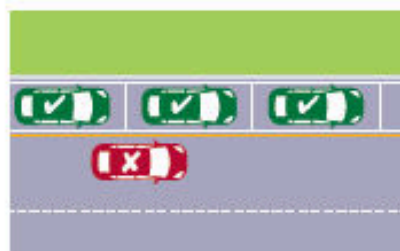


Speed



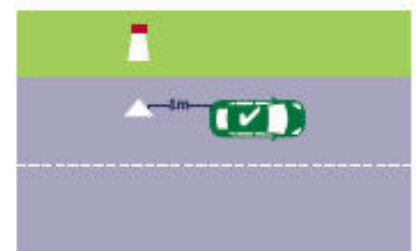
Look out for the reduced speed limit around schools and slow down to improve safety.

Yellow edge line



A driver must not stop on the side of the road marked with a yellow edge line.

Fire hydrants



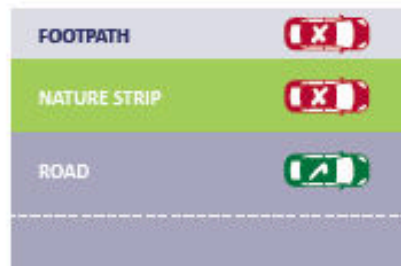
1 Metre clearance is required for fire hydrants, fire hydrant indicators or fire plug indicators.

School crossings



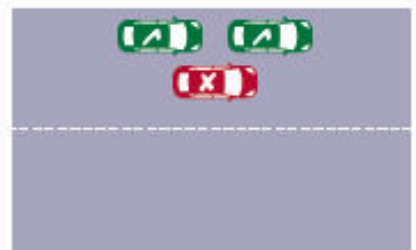
- Look out for flags and crossing supervisors.
- You must stop for anyone waiting to cross, or who has started crossing
- Please remain stopped until the crossing is clear.

No crossing on nature strips/footpaths



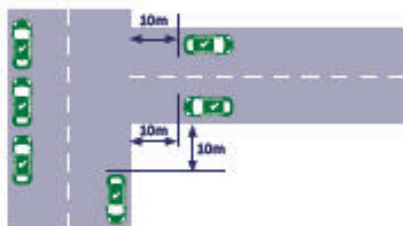
Parking is illegal on nature strips and footpaths.

Double parking



It is illegal to double park at anytime. This affects the flow of traffic.

Within 10 metres of an intersection



A driver must not stop with any part of their vehicle within 10 metres of an intersection unless signed otherwise.

Stopping across driveways



It is illegal to stop/park across a driveway unless you stay in the car and are there for no more than two minutes and move immediately if required to do so to allow entry or exit by the owner/occupier.

3 Metre gap from white line



At least 3 metres must be left between your vehicle and the centre dividing line to allow other vehicles to pass safely and not obstruct traffic.



Places are
still available
for 2025

3 and 4 year old kinder is **FREE**

NEW YEAR OF APPLICATIONS

OPEN 1 FEBRUARY FOR 2026-2027

Apply online for:

- Three-year-old kindergarten in 2026 and
- Four-year-old kindergarten in 2027

Kindergarten prepares children for school
and encourages a lifelong love of learning.



Scan to Apply

For more information

9217 2170 keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder



City of
Whittlesea





**Kinder
is FREE**

Kindergarten Open Days



Thursday 27 February
5.30pm – 7.30pm

Saturday 1 March
9.30am – 11.30am

IT ALL STARTS WITH KINDER

Enhance your child's health and wellbeing and help them develop strong social skills.

Visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder for a list of kindergartens with their open days and times. Bookings are not required.



For more information
Phone ☎ 9217 2170
or email ✉ keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



**City of
Whittlesea**



School Crossing Supervisor Safety Awareness Day

School Crossing Supervisors do a wonderful job maintaining safety around schools and we wish to remind drivers to slow down in their workplace.

On Friday 7th February 2025 School Crossing Supervisors will wear a Ribbon to commemorate their day and highlight the wonderful job they do.

This also honors Brian Beach from Wodonga who sadly lost his life whilst on duty at the school crossing in 2024.