



Discovering Doreen

Week Ending 22nd August 2025

Important Dates and INFORMATION	
TERM 3	
Grades P-4 Swimming every Thursday	28 Aug, 4 Sept
District Athletics Permission note for selected students is now on Compass	26 Aug
Father's Day Stall Helpers wanted	5 Sept
Division Athletics Selected students	8 Sept
Kaboom Sports Prep—Grade 3	10 Sept
Last Day of Term	19 Sept
PLEASE NOTE: All dates are subject to change. We will notify the school community of any changes as soon as we can.	

From Dave

At Doreen Primary School, we continue to support students in being safe, responsible and respectful when using technology. With new apps appearing all the time, it's important that families understand how they work and how children may use them.

Parents and carers play a key role in helping children develop healthy online habits. Setting boundaries around device use, checking in on what apps are being used and having regular conversations can go a long way in keeping children safe.

We are aware that some **students are using apps such as Snapchat**, which allow users to send comments or photos that disappear after a short time. While this may sound harmless, it can encourage unsafe behaviour. Some students believe they can write unkind or inappropriate messages because they will "vanish" – however, screenshots can still be taken and the impact of the words remains. These apps also make it harder for parents to monitor what their child is doing online. When your child asks to download a new app, please check:

- The age rating and intended purpose
- Whether it has private or disappearing messaging functions
- If it includes in-app purchases, advertising, or unmoderated chat

The most effective way to keep children safe is through **open conversations**. Encourage your child to share what apps they use and who they interact with online. Remind them that even if a message "disappears," it can still be hurtful or damaging. I write this as online behaviour is something that we as a school have no control over and has a direct impact to student wellbeing. Please be aware of what your child does and says online.

We have had a small outbreak of the **flu** at school recently. To help keep our school community healthy, we encourage families to rest at home if children are unwell. Taking the time to recover properly means students can return to school refreshed, ready to learn and less likely to spread illness to others. Some classes have been affected more than others, whilst some cohorts haven't been hit at all.

Next week, selected Grade 4-6 students will be representing Doreen Primary School at the **District Athletics Carnival**. Our school coordinates this event for the District, which will be held at Willinda Park. On the day, Mrs Green, Miss Jarvie, Mrs Quinn and myself will be attending the carnival with our team. Please note that this will mean we have a slightly reduced number of staff onsite at DPS. Students who are not participating in District Athletics will remain at school and have a normal day of learning, with Mr Miller as their classroom teacher for the day.

This week, our Grade 3-6 students took part in the **Prime Minister's Spelling Bee Challenge**. It was wonderful to see both students and staff engaged and enthusiastic throughout the competition. We now eagerly await the results and congratulate all students for their effort and participation.

Whilst many of our local schools celebrate **Book Week** - we do ours when we have the book fair. This will take place around the 2nd of December and fits well with our curriculum and events during that week.

Kaboom Sports is quickly approaching. For those who are unaware, Kaboom Sports is basically a fun-based tabloid morning for the Prep to Grade 3 students, which takes place on the Kangaroo Ground Primary oval. Notices will come home next week for this junior school event.

Mrs Zobel (our Art teacher) heads out on **LSL** for the remainder of the term. In her place, Mrs Eva Norbury will fill in for Di. Eva currently teaches our Preps, Ones, Fives and Sixes in Art. She'll take on every class for Art until the end of the term, as well as the Grade 1 and 2 Resilience Project. I'll be taking the Prep and Grade 3 students in resilience sessions in Di's absence.

DOREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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2025 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey **WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS** **TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!**

Our school is conducting the annual Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is now open online until Friday 19th September and all our families are invited to participate. The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Resources are also available in additional languages to assist parents/caregivers/guardians who speak a language other than English at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school directly for survey guides in your language.

Follow this link:

<https://research.orima.com/parent>

Generic Pin – 893081

SCHOOL FEES (CONTRIBUTIONS) 2025 !!!!!

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum		Amount
Classroom consumables Including all stationary, textbooks, readers, printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials. This also includes items for activities run during the year.		\$130
ICT replacement and programs – Sunshine Books, Maths Plus, and Soundwaves subscriptions		\$60
Program Extras		
Musical Instruments/replacements	\$20.00	
Sports Equipment	\$30.00	
Art Supplies	\$25.00	\$75
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities		Amount
Nil		\$0
Total Yearly Amount (Due Now)		\$265.00



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Grade P- 4 Swimming Program 2025

STARTING THURSDAY 31st JULY UNTIL THURSDAY 4TH SEPT

Our Prep to Grade 4 swimming program will take place at **WaterMarc Greensborough**, an indoor heated pool with excellent facilities. Each grade level P-4 will participate in 6 x 45-minute sessions, held **every Thursday** over a six-week period.

Group 1 (Grade 4)

Leave DPS @ 8:50am - Lessons: 9:30am - 10:15am – Arrive back at DPS 10:50am
(Gr 4 children will need to be at school by 8:30 to be ready to leave DPS by 8:50)

Group 2 (Grade 2 & 3)

Leave DPS @ 9:35am - Lessons 10:15am to 11:00am – Arrive back at DPS 11:40am

Group 3 (Prep & Grade 1)

Leave DPS @ 10:20am - Lessons 11:00am to 11:45am – Arrive back at DPS 12:25pm

Swimming Dates (6 Sessions):

- Thursday 31st July
- Thursday 7th August
- Thursday 14th August
- Thursday 21st August
- Thursday 28th August
- Thursday 4th September



What to Bring:

- Bathers (worn under school uniform)
- Towel
- Spare underwear
- Goggles (not compulsory)
- Swimming bag for all items



Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth and successful program.



We've partnered with Camp Australia for OSHC!

Here's why families love it:



Safe, smooth-running
sessions



Experienced,
caring staff



A focus on
fun, wellbeing
& growth

Click here to Register
<https://pp.campaustalia.com.au/>





Clean Room Award!



This award is presented to

PREP

for having a super clean room!

Week Ending 22nd August



TERM DATES

2025:

TERM 3

21 July–19 September

TERM 4

6 October–19 December

FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER



STALL



PARENT HELPERS REQUIRED

PLEASE SEE LISA OR KELLY IN THE OFFICE





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**Camp
Australia**





Newsletter and website article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 List

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, our school receives funding to ensure we are fully prepared for the fire season. Over recent years, this program has enabled us to implement a wide range of fire safety measures, including:

- Installation of loudspeaker systems
- Connection of water mains for hose reels
- Fireproof gutter guards
- Sprinkler systems on our Safer Place building (the [Library](#))
- An electric pump-driven sprinkler system along the northern fence and past the former Prep/One portables
- Ongoing trimming and removal of trees and hazardous debris in the yard
- A 360-degree camera providing full visibility of our surroundings, particularly if we need to enter our Safer Place
- Regular clearing of gutters prior to every fire season
- Water mains for a new sprinkler system installation next to the new Prep – 3 learning building.



These works are funded by the Department of Education and Training (DET) under the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) program. While our highest risk is from **grassfire** rather than bushfire, we are grateful for this support, which allows us to maintain a high level of preparedness.

We are confident in the safety of our Safer Place (the [Library](#) building) and in our ability to move children there quickly and calmly if required. In the event of a fire, the CFA will also have tankers stationed onsite to protect both our students and our facilities. This building is fitted with a sprinkler system on the roof, around the northern boundary and has a fitted [360 degree](#) camera. We also have [fire proof](#) gutter guards and shutters on all windows.

For this reason, we ask families not to attempt to collect children if a fire is close by. The single road into our school may be covered in smoke, closed to traffic, or at risk of accidents which could also block emergency services from entering. Although the natural instinct is to reach your child, the safest option in such circumstances is to trust the systems in place and allow us to care for them until it is safe.

As a designated BARR school, please note that we will **not be onsite on Catastrophic-rated fire days**. We hope these days will be minimal or not occur at all, but we remain prepared should the situation arise.

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.



Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in North East fire district.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by a compass message.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- **Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.**
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- **School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.**

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and always prioritise a body of work before fire season.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletter, having a discussion with your child's classroom teacher and keeping on top of compass messages.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- ~~VicEmergency~~ app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- ~~VicEmergency~~ Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters



Department
of Education

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the department's policy?

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 List to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

Who issues fire danger forecasts?

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.