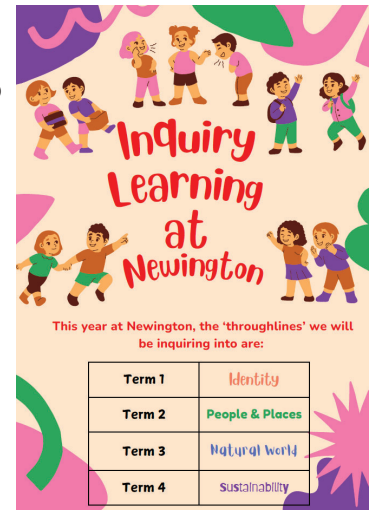


### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends and Families,

We have hit the halfway mark of Term 1! Over the last 5 weeks, our students have taken to their new classes beautifully, with all our classes settled and learning is well underway for the 2026 school year. Our Foundation students in particular are doing a wonderful job learning the routine of our literacy mornings, with Heggerty and Sounds Write for the first hour each day.

This is our second year of inquiry learning with a throughlines approach. This term, our students have delved into inquiry learning focused on identity, with each team taking it on from a different perspective. Our teachers have worked hard to intertwine the curriculum throughout the throughlines so that all areas are covered over a two-year period. It is wonderful to see the students engaged with our approach of throughlines and to see them actively taking part in the learning while asking questions.



### *Swimming sports*

Last week, two of our students, Hugo and Adele, swam at the division swimming sports. We would like to congratulate each of them on their achievements during the day. Today, they were interviewed at assembly by the sports leaders about their experience and shared that they were awarded an Inspire wristband earlier in the week for the way they represented our school with pride, while challenging themselves.

### *2026 School Council*

On Tuesday the call for nominations for the 2026 School Council closed. We received the three parent nominations we required which is terrific. We now have a full School Council for 2026. The members for the 2026 School Council are -

- *Olivia Decis*
- *Gabrielle Evans*
- *Gemma Hoffmann*
- *Elisabeth Lee*
- *Emily Tong*
- *Tiara McKenzie*
- *Tim Menz*
- *Grant Pritchard*

Our Chromequest team from School Council is currently running a Cookie Dough fundraiser please support us by purchasing some dough before March 13th.

Have a nice weekend.

Kind Regards



**Billy's Gourmet Cookie & Biscuit Dough**

**AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

- Last orders for cookie dough - 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Collection of cookie dough from the school - 27<sup>th</sup> March
- All funds raised will go towards the schools 'Chromequest'! - Raising money to help purchase Chromebooks for the school
- The class that raises the most money will all receive a free Zooper Dooper!!
- The student that raises the most money will receive a \$100 gift voucher to Collins Booksellers!!
- Please check in with the office if your family haven't received a form.

**GOOD LUCK!!**



# Introducing our Student Voice Captains

Hello, my name is Hamish. I am one of the Student Voice Captains for 2026. I came to Newington last year. I enjoy many things at Newington, such as PE, writing, and many other subjects. Outside of school, I do Scouts and swimming. When I came to Newington, I realised it was an amazing community, so when the leadership role came up, I knew I could make a change for the better. When I became a Student Voice Captain, I was overjoyed, and I am pleased to have Maddie as my partner as the other Student Voice Captain. We will be working to make positive changes at Newington for the better.



Hi, my name is Maddie, and I am one of the 2026 Student Voice Captains. I will be working with this year's Student Voice representatives to come up with ideas and suggestions so we can make our school better. I like many things about Newington Primary School, including PE, STEM, and Maths. I am really looking forward to sharing ideas from myself and our Student Voice representatives with the whole school.

## News from the Student Voice Team

On Wednesday, we had our first official Student Voice meeting as a team. It was great to hear everyone's ideas and suggestions that their class had come up with. We will be sharing these ideas throughout the year.

At the meeting, we came to a decision that on March 13th, we would have a day to fundraise money for the Chromequest. This is going to be a casual dress day with the theme "Express Yourself." This theme is all about expressing yourself through your choice of clothing. You can dress up in your favourite outfit, costume, or even dress up as someone you look up to.

**March 13th**  
**Express yourself**  
**through casual dress**



**Gold Coin**  
**Donation**

# Learning in Grade 5/6

We have had a fantastic start to the term in our Year 5/6 classrooms. Students have returned with positive attitudes and a strong willingness to learn. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled back into routines, reconnected with classmates, and embraced new learning challenges.

One of our exciting focuses this term is **Sport Maths**. Students are training for upcoming athletics events while also collecting and recording performance data. They are measuring times and distances accurately (to two decimal places), organising results, and graphing their progress over time. This unit encourages students to see mathematics as practical and purposeful, while also promoting goal setting and personal improvement. Importantly, the focus is not on competition, but on tracking growth and celebrating improvement through effort and consistency.

This term we have begun reading *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. The novel explores themes of belonging, courage, identity, and resilience, making it a powerful text for our students. Through Ally's journey, students are learning about empathy, persistence, and recognising individual strengths.



We are also using the novel to introduce **Literature Circles**, where students take on specific roles to deepen their understanding of the text. Roles such as Discussion Director, Summariser, Word Wizard, Connector, and Illustrator help students engage thoughtfully with the story while developing discussion and comprehension skills. This structure encourages accountability, collaboration, and rich literary conversations.



# Learning in STEMS

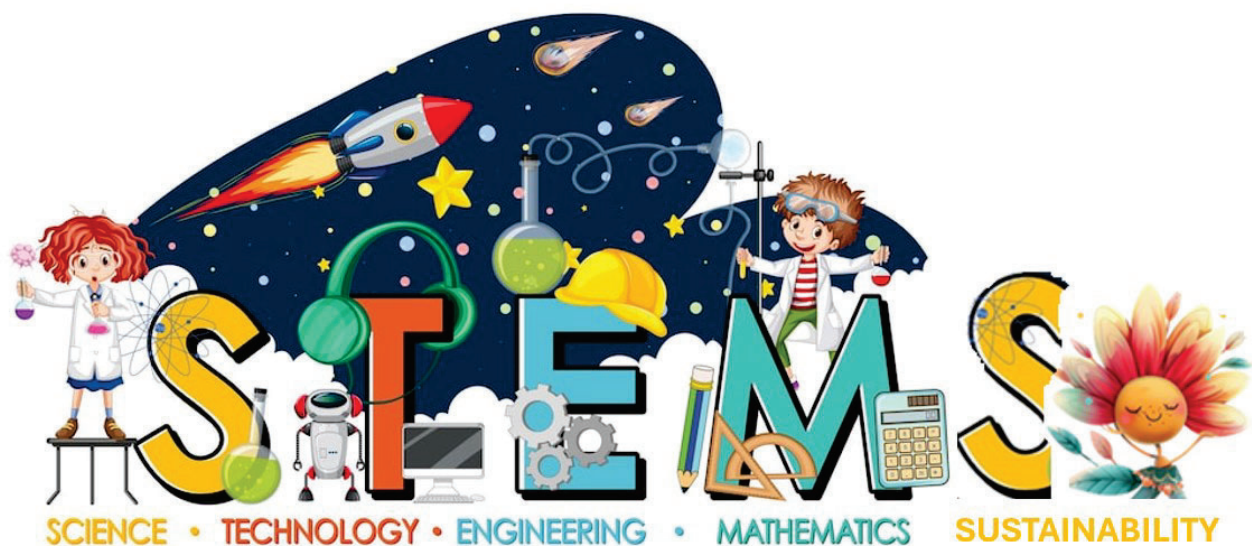
Years 3 -6 have had a super busy start to the term! We have tried to make the most of exploring and solving various challenges through critical thinking, teamwork and innovation before we delve into our first Inquiry Topic as of week 6.

**Assisting Green Team** – focusing on a team mentality, each class leapt into action to prepare the outdoor learning spaces so that our Green Team Heroes can get straight to work on their desired projects for the school. A wonderful effort by all!

**Block Bridge Challenge** – in table group teams, students were required to work together and build a bridge with a specific requirement. The bridge needed to hold either the most A3 scrapbooks possible or hold a minimum of 50 A3 scrapbooks (if more than one team was successful).

**Block Spinners Challenge** – working independently students were tasked to create their own tabletop spinner using a minimum of 10 blocks. There were various designs and great discussions had regarding momentum, weight distribution and spin techniques.

Although we have faced some unsuccessful results at times, there have been many wins and great support shown to fellow classmates. STEMS is all about learning to not give up, to try again and share our successes. Each week, students have re-entered the classroom determined and ready to take on the next challenge. I look forward to letting them take the reins with their learning and seeing what discoveries they make along their first Scientific Inquiry Journey in the STEMS classroom!



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# Learning in Japanese

日本語

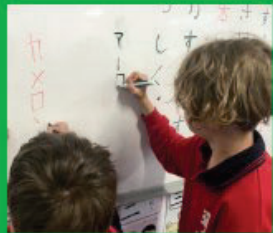
Japanese : MR. PAXTON

## Konnichiwa!

I have been a Japanese teacher at Newington PS since 2008. I was fortunate enough to live in Japan for 6 years from 1998-2004, having worked as an English teacher in Primary, Secondary and Adult education settings.

I have a passion for sharing my love of Japanese language and culture with my students.

This year, I'm excited to be teaching our new Foundation students!



## TERM 1 2026

**Foundation :** We are learning basic greetings, colours, numbers to 10 and classroom instructions. They are super enthusiastic!

**Grades 1/2:** Students are learning to talk about their likes / dislikes in Japanese. We are also revisiting some early language: greetings, numbers and colours

**Grades 3-6:** Students are writing an extended "jiko Shokai" (self-introduction) in Japanese. They will decorate these with origami, manga and some of their favourite pictures of Japan.

**Hinamatsuri:** On March 3rd, all students will celebrate "Dolls Day", a traditional Japanese festival usually celebrated by girls.



**Show and Tell:** Does your child own something Japanese? Eaten Japanese food at a restaurant? Learning a Japanese martial art such as Judo or Karate? Students are encouraged to show and share each lesson.



# Learning in Performing Arts



Welcome to Performing Arts for 2026! While we will have a very strong focus on Music this year, as it is the area of performing arts that is the most sequential and has the neuro science evidence that supports the whole brain development while participating in Music, we will also continue include movement and dance and will endeavour to include links to drama in our program this year, especially throughout our concert preparations.

This year, Grades Foundation-4 will continue to participate in Music for the whole school year and Grade 5/6 students will have Music during Semester 1. This gives us lots of opportunities for growth in our skills and knowledge and the chance to explore new instruments and ideas through the program. This year the Junior Unit will explore the Music Tree, connecting to their Science Inquiry while the 5/6 students will link to identity, asking the question

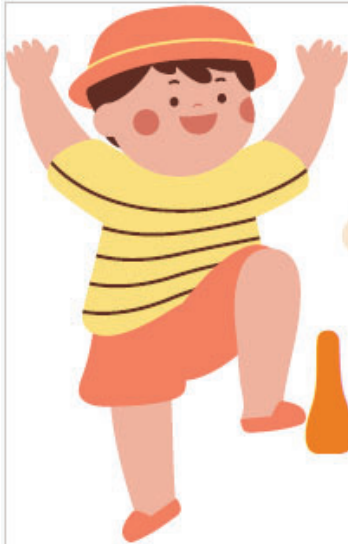
“who am I as a musician?”. Grade 3/4 students have made an excellent start learning the ukulele and we are looking forward to hearing the songs they choose to play, and the songs they write themselves!

This year **Choir** is at RECESS each Monday. We welcome all students in Grades 1-6 to come along for a sing and some fun. **We ask that students who participate make a commitment for the whole term.** There will be a reminder announcement at the start of recess to help everyone remember. We have many performances lined up for 2026 including visits at our feeder kinders, nearby nursing homes, the Royal South Street Eisteddfod, and of course our School Concert in Term 3. We also look forward to another Christmas performance in the city at the end of the year. **Our first performance will be at ASSEMBLY on Thursday 2/4/26.** We hope to see you there!



Our instrumental lessons this year are being taught by some excellent teachers and performers from across Ballarat and we are excited to welcome them to the Newington Community. If you have not signed up for lessons yet, but still want to, please complete the form and submit it to the office – there may be a wait list for some instruments, but we will fit you in as soon as we can! We are also excited about the new Drumkit donated over the holidays – thanks to Michael Evans-Barker for helping us to obtain this treasure. If you know anyone looking to rehome an instrument, please let Mrs. Allen know via the office.

See you soon, in the Music Room!



THIS TERM,  
WE WILL BE  
INQUIRING  
INTO:



# IDENTITY

AN INQUIRY INTO WHO WE ARE AS PEOPLE,  
LEARNERS AND MEMBERS OF A BROADER  
COMMUNITY. AN EXPLORATION INTO HOW A  
GROWTH MINDSET CAN HELP US TO DEVELOP  
RESILIENCE AND AN APTITUDE FOR LIFE-LONG  
LEARNING



F-2

Our Class is a Family  
(かぞく ka zo ku)



3-4

Understanding self &  
others builds respectful  
relationships.

5-6

Who we are and who we  
want to be

Please look out for  
further information  
in upcoming  
newsletters.





# Begonia Festival

*All our student in Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2 have contributed to our Visual Arts entry at the Begonia Festival.*

*It looks fantastic, please go along and take a look from Saturday March 7th—Monday March 9th.*

*Well done to Ms Devlin and all the F-2 students on this wonderful painting of a quoll.*

**WATER & NATIVE ANIMAL CANVAS PAINTING**

EDUCATION COMPETITION

10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily,  
Saturday 7, Sunday 8 and Monday 9 March 2026

Artwork will be on display at the Ballarat Begonia Festival across the Labour Day long weekend.



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It has been a great start to the year meeting with our Dream Team.

During our time together we have shown our newest members Kadak Karndorr, the Yarning Circle Meeting Space and shared a few stories/experiences with one another.

Our 3-6 students have expressed what opportunities they would like to have, and our F-2 students have started to explore Dreamtime Stories.

Over the course of Term 1 and Term 2, we intend to complete our Bunjil the Eagle mural, set up a Bushtucker Garden and have a celebration at the end of term playing Traditional Games.

Wow! The Green Team Hero applications and interviews were out of this world!

Each student who interviewed did such a brilliant job and should be incredibly proud of their efforts. Although each classroom has two official representatives, the Environmental Leaders and I intend to include all of those who interviewed on various projects when we can.

The Green Team have discussed lots of ideas and shared all they hope to accomplish this year.

Starting with planting flowers, vegetables and even our own greens for chickens.

Not to mention some different species living in the STEMS classroom!



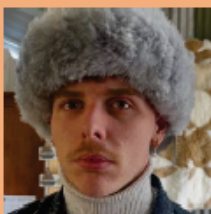
***Lots of updates regarding Dream Team and the Green Team to keep occurring during Assembly each fortnight!***

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## Newington Primary School, Instrumental Program

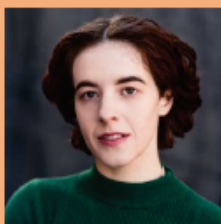
We are so lucky at Newington to have a fantastic group of instrumental music teachers who visit our school each week and teach students who choose to learn an instrument. In 2026 we have a range of new teachers joining our team to encourage and support our students in their creative endeavours. On this page you will see photos and information about each of our amazing teachers. Please consider whether this is something your family would like to take advantage of. It is a user pays system. All information about costs and lesson arrangements and the application form can be found below, or at the office.



**Will Stephens (drums)** Will Stephens has had a deep passion for music since he was very young. This passion led him to explore various genres, styles and instruments. He started drumming aged 8 and has participated in various competitions throughout Australia. Will received full scholarship to complete his Bachelor of Music at JMC and has been teaching drums for over 10 years to people of all ages and all skill levels. He also teaches drums teacher at Phoenix P-12 Community College and St Patricks College Ballarat.



**Ellen Sorensen (piano)** is a busy creative professional working and living in Ballarat, who moved to Australia from NZ in 2013. She began her musical training through *The Royal School of Music*, and has used this training as the basis of her practice as a singer-songwriter and performer for the last 18 years. I am deeply passionate about music and the roles it can play to connect and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds. As a piano teacher she loves to see students grasping new skills and knowledge and reinforcing these achievements to build student's confidence and self-esteem during lessons.



**Leif Taylor (violin)** is a violinist and performer from Perth, Western Australia. They started playing the violin at the age of 4 and received a scholarship on this instrument for high school. They moved to Ballarat to complete their Bachelor on Performing Arts at Federation University, graduating in 2025. Leif has been teaching dance and music for over 10 and has completed further studies in additional needs education assistance so they can best support every student. Leif believes that music should be enjoyed by all and hopes to inspire a new generation of music lovers.



**Harry Nijam (guitar)** is a guitarist with a passion for creativity and music. He loves songwriting, music production, and performs his own music under the alias *Surfe*. As a guitar teacher, Harry leads students to discovering their passion, and developing confidence and creativity on their instrument. He has been playing guitar for six years, performing regularly in a range of public venues. Harry's number one aim in teaching guitar is to foster the creativity and authentic passion of his students, which can then be supported by the theoretical knowledge and technical skills require to achieve their goals.



**Viv Webb (recorder)** is a well known recorder player who lives in Ballarat. She plays in a range of local and state ensembles and says "I love the recorder! It's portable and little fingers can hold and play it easily. In our lessons together you will learn proper technique from the beginning in a low stress and encouraging way. If Newington can have a few students learning we will even be able to form an ensemble. Grade 6 students can choose to learn the descant and the alto recorder, which is a little lower."



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## COMMUNITY NOTICES AND EVENTS

# Parent Helpers



If you would you like to be a Parent Helper in 2026 come along to the staff room on

**Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 to 9:15**

where policies and registration sheets will be available.

Working With Children Checks are required for all parent helpers. Please bring them along and we will make a copy (if we don't already have one from last year).

If you are unable to be there please let Joy Hill know.



## Can you help at our Bunnings BBQ on March 14th?



### OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

We are hosting the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on **14<sup>th</sup> March** at DTC. We are asking for help from our community to volunteer their time on the day.

#### How can we help?

- Volunteer your time on the day! We have a range of shifts to suit everyone.  
8 - 11am      11 - 2pm      2 - 5pm

Can't commit to a full 3 hour shift? No Problem!  
Find a friend that you can share a shift with.

Please contact Elisabeth on 0418 651 223 to advise what time slot suits you.



#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Last orders for cookie dough - 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Collection of cookie dough from the school - 27<sup>th</sup> March
- All funds raised will go towards the schools 'Chromequest'! - Raising money to help purchase Chromebooks for the school
- The class that raises the most money will all receive a free Zooper Dooper!!
- The student that raises the most money will receive a \$100 gift voucher to Collins Booksellers!!
- Please check in with the office if your family haven't received a form.

**GOOD LUCK!!**



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## KEY DATES FOR TERM 1

Date	Event
Thursday March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Helpers information session, breaky and sign up 8:30am-9:30am
Monday March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Public Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Wednesday March 11 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	NAPLAN Testing window for Year 3 and 5 students
Friday March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter and Whole School Assembly
Saturday March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser
Wednesday March 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 camp
Thursday March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Sports Day. (Year 3 – 6)
Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Classrooms Assembly Family/Class end of term picnic
Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Term One concludes at 1:30pm.
Monday April 20 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Term 2 for the students.
A little reminder to our Foundation students have the following dates off in Term One – Wednesday February 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> and March 4 <sup>th</sup>	

## Important Dates to know in 2026



**NEWINGTON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*Inspire Inquire Grow*

### Term Dates –

- **Term 1** – January 27<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Term 2** – April 20<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Term 3** – July 13<sup>th</sup> – September 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Term 4** – October 5<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>

### Public Holidays –

- **Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>** – Labour Day
- **Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Good Friday
- **Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>** – Kings Birthday
- **Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Melbourne Cup

### Student Free Days-

- **Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup>** – Staff Professional Learning and Collaboration
- **Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>** – Staff Professional Practice Day
- **Friday September 4<sup>th</sup>** – Staff Collaboration Day
- **Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Report Writing Day
- **Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Staff Collaboration Day

The YMCA are interested in knowing which families would like to book their child/ren into outside school care on our pupil free days.  
Please contact them on **0491 188 578**  
Between 6:30am-10:30 and 2:30-6:00pm.

### Newington Events- Term 1 and 2

- **Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Parent teacher chats 3:30-6:30
- **Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Parent teacher chats 1:30-5:00  
(Students finish school 1:00pm)
- **Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>** – 3-6 Senior Sports
- **Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Open classroom event & family Easter picnic. School concludes 1:30pm
- **Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>** – ANZAC Day Service (time tbc)
- **Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>** – Whole School Cross Country
- **Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Mothers Day event
- **Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Japanese Day

*It is possible date changes or new events may be added when the new school year begins. We will do our best to communicate these to families as quickly as we can.*

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