



2023

STAWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL 502

Information Booklet

502 P.R.I.D.E.

Participation Respect Integrity Determination Excellence

'Be the best you can be'

WHY CHOOSE 502?

Stawell Primary School offers:

- ☑ a long, proud history and tradition of education in the Stawell community
- ☑ an experienced, caring, and dedicated staff
- ☑ an engaging curriculum including a computer for every child (at no charge)
- ☑ large learning spaces and a spacious playground encouraging active play
- ☑ 4 Specialist learning areas of: PE, Chinese, Science and The Arts
- ☑ a quality camps, sports, and excursions program
- ☑ extensive Student Leadership and Community Engagement programs
- ☑ Mental health and wellbeing support programs
- ☑ a school canteen (2 days per week Thursday and Friday)





ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Stawell Primary School is a historically significant school, located centrally in the town of Stawell in the West Grampians Network. **'502'** – as the school is known locally, has a current enrolment of 286, making it the largest primary school in Stawell, with students drawn from both the town and surrounding rural districts.

Stawell Primary School's Vision and Values statement reflects the importance placed on developing both the academic progress and the emotional wellbeing of all students. The school's mantra of **502-P.R.I.D.E.** (Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence) sets important standards in terms of work effort, behaviour expectations and aspirations for all.

We aim to be:

proud of ourselves, proud of our work, proud of our school and proud of our community

Stawell Primary School has 29 staff members comprising of: 2 Principal Class, 17 teachers and 8 Education Support staff (5 student support and 3 Administration staff), and a Mental Health in Primary Schools Coordinator.

The school's leadership profile consists of a Principal, Assistant Principal and Learning Specialist. The school has three Communities of Practice (COP) improvement teams, consisting of a Curriculum, Wellbeing and Special Events which drive improvement in teaching and learning. The school also has Professional Learning Teams which coincide with our professional learning areas. The school's grade structure consists of 13 classes, grouped into three teaching and professional learning areas:

- **Prep–Year 2**
- **Year 3–4**
- **Year 5–6.**

A comprehensive curriculum is delivered through a proven, research-based instructional model for teaching and learning (**G.A.N.A.G.**). Our inquiry learning program uses the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning approach.

Specialist teachers provide engaging programs in three subject areas:

- **The Arts**
- **PE**
- **Chinese language**
- **Science**

Enrichment programs include swimming, extensive camps and excursions opportunities, sporting programs and a strong transition process involving local kindergartens (K-P), Stawell Secondary College (6-7) and the broader community.

Student leadership plays an important role within our school, enabling students to build their leadership capacity, whilst providing opportunities for **student voice and agency**. Our school has a strong link with the Stawell Secondary College in supporting opportunities for student-led programs by secondary students.

Our school provides a range of extra programs to support **student's wellbeing** and to develop resilience and social skills, including mentoring and buddy programs. The School Chaplain, Kids Hope, Breakfast Club, food hampers, and Uniform Shop, provide wellbeing support for students and their families.

The school actively encourages **parent and community partnerships** which support student learning and wellbeing. **Parent helpers** regularly assist in classrooms and with school events. Students are always encouraged to be active members of the Stawell community.

Striving to **be the best you can be** is the goal for all members of our school community.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Principal Russell Marland
- Assistant Principal Scott Rathgeber
- Office Manager Sue Honeyman
- Business Manager Barbara Wickham
- Wellbeing Officer Casey Baxter
- Canteen Manager Kristy Lewis
- Contact phone **5358 1255**

- School Hours Students to arrive at school no earlier than 8.30am
8.45am Bag Bell
(Students enter classrooms and unpack in preparation for learning)
8.55am – 11.00am Session 1 and 2
11.00am – 11.30am Recess
11.30am – 1.30pm Session 3 and 4
1.30pm – 2.20pm Lunch (eaten inside 1.30-1.40pm)
2.20pm – 3.20pm Session 5

- School Crossings The roads around our school are very busy, so it is important for ALL students to use the designated crossings if they need to cross a road. Crossings are located on: **Barnes Street and Ord Street (x2)**

- Car Parking We have **time restricted** parking around the school – please observe all signs. **Disabled Parking** is located on Ord Street.

- Buses **Town Bus** leaves the front gate at 3.25pm
Country Bus leaves the front gate at 3.30pm
- a student **Bus Roll** is completed for all buses prior to departure

- Bikes/scooters Bikes are to be stored at the bike shed and may not be ridden in the school grounds or on the footpath around the school.
Students are encouraged to not ride their bikes alone until they are in Grade 4 (due to the development of their peripheral vision).

- Lunches Children who bring lunches to school, eat together under teacher supervision. Please note: **the school does not refrigerate or heat up individual food items.**
If you wish your child to eat at home, a covering note is required.
Lunches may be ordered through the **canteen Thursday and Friday** via the QKR app or a written order.

- Phones **Phones/electronic equipment** are not permitted in school bags.
These are collected each day & stored in the Office until the end of the day.

- Security **All visitors** must sign in and out at the Office.
This includes all student **late arrivals** and **early departures.**

PREPS

Beginning school is such an important and exciting time for students and their families. For this reason our Prep teachers are committed to providing the strongest possible start to school for every child.

Our school endeavours to ensure that starting school is a positive and memorable time for everyone. To create a seamless transition from kindergarten to school, we offer:

Parent Information Sessions and an extensive student **Transition Program** - designed to build student understanding, confidence and endurance with the new school structure.

When required, we participate with kindergarten teachers and families in **Student Support meetings** to discuss specific learning needs, such as **NDIS funding**.

Prep Parent Information Sessions: Term 3 – Wednesday 9th August (information to come)

2023 Transition Dates for 2024 Preps: Term 4 – Monday 23rd October 9.15am-11am
Wednesday 8th November 9.15am-12:30pm
Thursday 23rd November 9.15am-1.20pm
Tuesday 12th December (State-wide)9am-3pm

On a school tour you will see our large, engaging classrooms filled with opportunities to foster the personal, social, emotional and academic growth for all children.

Our **guided discovery learning program** encourages students to explore their world in a meaningful way, allowing them to make connections between home, school and their community. It fosters students' imagination and builds curiosity, acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual child.

The program provides opportunities to make authentic links from real-world experiences to their **literacy and numeracy** learning.

Please note: to help our students adjust to the longer school hours, Prep students **do not** attend school on a Wednesday for the first 6 weeks of Term 1.
Prep students attend full time after the March Long Weekend.





OUR CURRICULUM

Our academic Vision states that:

‘Our school will provide an engaging and innovative learning environment, where children are encouraged to be their personal best, to think deeply and question and to demonstrate a positive and resilient mindset.’

In accordance with the Department of Education requirements, all curriculum content is based on the:

Victorian Curriculum F-10 - VicCurric. <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

VicCurric outlines what **content** is to be taught across the school, whilst catering for individual learning needs and levels.

All **student assessment** is based on the VicCurric progression points, which compare student achievement against the expected curriculum levels.

We report to parents through:

- twice yearly **Parent-Teacher Interviews (March & July)** and written **Student Reports (June & Dec)**
Parents are always encouraged to make appointments to speak with teachers, should any concerns arise.

Our learning day is divided into **5 Sessions**:

9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 -1.30	2.20 – 3.20
Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5

Literacy

Stawell Primary School has been on a recent learning journey to embed new practices into the teaching and learning of Literacy. This has included staff training in Sounds-Write across P-6, and the introduction of the Big 6 of Reading.

Our new ‘Literacy Block’ includes:

- **Heggerty** which is a phonemic awareness program that is one of the best early predictors for reading success.
- **Sounds Write** (Lessons and Dictation), which is a highly structured, systematic synthetic phonics program. Which teaches students how the alphabetic code works, fundamentally teaching the skills required to be effective readers and spellers.
- **Fluency Reads**, which allows the students to practice reading accurately, at a good pace, and with appropriate expression. Building reading capabilities that are effortless and natural.
- **Mentor Texts** have also been included in the new revised Literacy Block, which allow for high quality literature (fiction or non-fiction). Mentor texts support the Language Comprehension aspect of Scarborough’s Reading Rope: Background Knowledge, Vocabulary, Language Structure, Verbal Reasoning, and Literacy Knowledge. It also supports writing practices.
- **Text Types** builds better writers, and supports improved reading comprehension, creativity, and reference skills. This includes writers (students) writing for purposes which fall into three main categories: to entertain, to inform, and to persuade. Stawell Primary cover two text types per term.

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

We are very fortunate to be able to **offer 4 curriculum areas of Specialist teaching** each week. Each lesson is for one hour and is taken in a **Specialist Classroom**.

Physical Education

At Stawell Primary School we are aware of the importance of influencing children to adopt positive, life-long attitudes towards an **active, healthy lifestyle**. Through our Physical Education classes the students are provided with opportunities to develop their **fundamental motor skills** which form the basis of all sports. The students are taught the basic skills of controlling body movement, ball handling plus a range of other skills within various minor and major games. As students develop their more **complex motor skills**, they will be given opportunities to then apply these to sports specific settings. Emphasis is placed on students improving their physical skills and knowledge through **fun, engaging and energy filled** experiences. Students are actively encouraged to participate to the best of their ability and **good sportsmanship** is enthusiastically promoted.



THE ARTS

The Arts contributes to the development of confident and expressive students who have the opportunity to explore and build on their own creative and imaginative ideas. It is designed to maximise opportunities for students to become innovative thinkers and to have experiences as both audience members and artists.

The Arts includes **Dance, Drama, Music, Media Arts, Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design**.

All students are to have an **art smock** to protect their clothing during Art classes. A large shirt is quite suitable. It should be clearly named and will be kept in the classroom.

CHINESE

Stawell Primary School students have the opportunity to participate in **Mandarin Chinese** classes every week. In addition to being an important strategic language for Australia, there are no shortages of benefits of learning a second language. The Chinese program endeavours to not only help students to communicate, but also to appreciate different ways of thinking about the world. We also maintain strong links with Stawell Secondary College Chinese teachers to ensure consistent learning across all year levels and smooth **transition into secondary education**.



SCIENCE

Science is taught across all year levels at Stawell Primary School, students can explore Biological (e.g. flora and fauna), Chemical (e.g. gases, liquids, and solids), Earth and Space (e.g. erosion, solar system, volcanoes), and Physical Science (e.g. magnets, push and pull forces). There is a dedicated Science Room, with access to both physical and ICT resources.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership plays an important role in the culture of our school.

All students, no matter their age, are encouraged and supported to show leadership skills based on our school values of: **PRIDE**

- participation
- respect
- integrity
- determination
- excellence

All students are supported to make **'good choices'** in regard to their learning and behaviour.

Student-led activities, such as Assemblies, are highly valued within our school, as are learning opportunities held with, and led by, students from the **Stawell Secondary College**.

Learning **from, and within our community**, is also an important aspect of student leadership. Students are encouraged to participate in local activities and to **'give back'** whenever they can.

Opportunities include:

Grade 6 Student Leadership Team

-comprising our School Captains and Vice-Captains, our House Captains and Vice-Captains and our JSC President and Vice-President

Roles include:

- leading all major school events, including our Monday morning School Assemblies and End of Term Assemblies
- representing our school in community events



Junior School Council (JSC)

-comprising student representatives from Grade 4 to Grade 6

Roles include:

-completing 3 major fundraising events each year – one for: our school, our community and a charity

Buddies

- Grade 5 and Preps (begins during the Kinder-Prep Transition Program)
- Grade 6 and Grade 1 (continuation of the year prior)

Community

Our students participate in:

- ANZAC Day ceremony, Meals on Wheels, Stawell Community Lunch, visits to the Eventide Home
- learning opportunities at: Stawell Historical Society, Stawell Athletic Club, Stawell Library
- ~ just to name a few!

CAMPS and EXCURSIONS

Stawell Primary School offers an extensive camps and excursions program beginning in Preps and culminating with a week-long camp in Grade 6. **Parent Helpers** are always sought to assist with these activities.

Excursions

- **Preps** – local excursions
- **Grade 1** – local excursions
- **Grade 2** – local excursions
- **Grade 3** – local excursions
- **Grade 4** – local excursions
- **Grade 5** – local excursions
- **Grade 6** – local excursions

Camps

- **Halls Gap Zoo** (day trip)
- **Educational Experience** (day trip)
- **Sleepover at school** (overnight)
- **Roses Gap** (3 days, 2 nights)
- **Campaspe Downs - Kyneton** (3 days, 2 nights)
- **Sovereign Hill**—costumed school (3 days, 2 nights)
- **Warrnambool** (3 days, 2 nights)

GRIP Leadership Conference (Ballarat – day trip)



SPORT

Being healthy and active is an important focus of our school curriculum. Students are actively encouraged to participate in sporting activities and to strive to achieve their personal best.

To support this focus we employ a **PE Specialist**, enabling all students from Prep to Grade 6 to participate in PE classes each week.

This is further supported by our inclusion in the **Sporting Schools Program** which provides additional specialist coaching in areas such as tennis, golf, athletics and volleyball to name a few.

Upon enrolment, students are placed in one of four **Houses** – **Gold, Blue, Green or Red**. Students compete in these House teams for our **Athletic, Swimming, Cross Country and Ball Sports** events. Students who gain placings then have the opportunity to participate in the **Zone, Regional** and even the **State** level of competition.

Each House has 2 **House Captains** and 2 **Vice-Captains** who are responsible for the leadership and building the morale of their team.

Our school also provides opportunities for students to participate in:

- **Swimming Program P-6** (10 lessons for every child)
- **Winter Sports** (interschool- football, netball and soccer)
- **Stadium/Community Sports** – utilising our local sports facilities such as tennis, lawn bowls, basketball
- **Sport Ed** – sports coaching by Year 10 students at the Stawell Secondary College

STUDENT and FAMILY WELLBEING

Providing a **happy, safe, and inclusive learning environment** is an important part of our school culture.

Behaviour expectations are based upon our school Values and are **consistently implemented** across all classrooms, specialist classrooms, in the playground and during all school events and activities.

We believe that **parental involvement** within the school, is integral to a child's wellbeing. For this reason we have open, honest and supportive communication processes between school and home. If needed, the school can help with referrals to other community support agencies and services.

We are fortunate to have **Casey Baxter** working in our school under the Mental Health in Primary Schools program, four days per week. Casey is available to provide wellbeing support to all students, staff and families if needed. This is a strictly confidential service.

Students and their families are supported in many ways:

- **Breakfast Club** (Monday though to Thursday mornings)
- **Second-hand Uniform Shop**
- **Kids Hope Mentor Program**
- **Students with Disabilities Program (PSD)**
- **Lunchtime activities**
- **Therapy Dog (Lottie)**



Stawell Primary School is a **Resilience Project** and **Respectful Relationships** school. The curriculum is designed to empower students to be safe from harm, particularly from violence. It reinforces the importance of inclusion and **gender equality**.

To further support students in their learning, we have four **Educational Support (ES) staff** working with PSD funded students. Our ES staff support teachers in their daily teaching practice and offer extra learning support to students when needed.

ES staff members are also in the **playground** during recess and lunchtimes to assist students in play and socialisation.

To further support students in the playground, Stawell Primary School features a **Passive Play** area and a **Sensory Garden**. A wellbeing room is also provided for students.

These areas will offer our students a calming, quiet environment as an alternative to the busyness of the playground.



There are many ways you can be involved in our school as a Parent/Carer. All parent involvement is greatly appreciated and valued by our staff. Many of our programs rely heavily on the support and involvement of our wonderful helpers.

Examples include:

- **School Council**
 - decision-making body of our school
 - monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month
 - elections held in March

School Council President: Jacinta Smith
- **Parents and Friends' Club**
 - fundraising body of our school
 - local and community fundraising events to support school programs and resources

President: Elissa Chalmers
- **Canteen**
 - food preparation and assistance with student lunches (rostered)

Canteen Manager: Ms Kristy Lewis
- **Breakfast Club**
 - food preparation and serving of breakfast
 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings (8.15am-9am)
- **Parent Helpers – Classroom**
 - listening to children read
 - assisting on excursions and with special events
- **Parent Helpers – Drivers**
 - drivers are needed for transporting students to various sporting events and for Meals on Wheels deliveries
- **Swimming Program**
 - assistance with supervision and support
- **Swimming & Athletic Sports**
 - set up and pack up of equipment
 - marshalling and judging
- **Camps**
 - attendance on camps
 - support of students and activities
- **Working Bees**
 - general yard maintenance
 - special projects/tasks



Working With Children Checks (WWCC) Please note that under the Working with Children Act 2005, people who engage in voluntary child-related work, need a current WWCC Check. This Check is **free for volunteers**. Applications can be obtained from - <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

ENROLMENT PROCESS

Children who turn **5 years** of age by the **30th April 2024** are eligible to be enrolled in our Prep classes. Exemptions to this must be sought and approved through the Education Department.

To enrol your child please:

- Complete the attached **enrolment and consent forms** (copies available at the Office) and return them **in person** to the school Office

To complete your child's enrolment, you will need to bring with you:

- A copy of your child's **Birth Certificate Extract**
- A copy of your child's **Certificate of Immunisation**



Our friendly Office staff, **Barbara, Sue, and Pamela** will be pleased to discuss any questions you may have in regard to matters such as **school fees** and **school uniform** at the time of enrolment.

★ **Please note:** to assist with **2024 planning**, we ask for enrolments to be completed by **September 15th** (end of Term 3)

★ Enrolments can be completed online <https://stawellps.vic.edu.au/school-tour/> or through the office

CONTACT DETAILS

Stawell Primary School

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PO Box 502

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Email: stawell.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.stawell.ps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: log onto school website and follow the links

