

# Newsletter

Principal: Shane West  
School Council President: Nial Muecke

Ph: 5428 2232



Dear Parents and Guardians

## Foundation & Year 6 Transition Sessions

Statewide transition day happened on Tuesday for all our 2026 Foundation students. They marched into class and started their day as if they had been here all year. Congratulations to all the parents, students and teachers for making the transition process so successful. Our current Year 6 students also had their Year 7 transition day and, from all reports, had a fantastic day with PE and the canteen seeming to be the two big hits.

## Free swim teacher training for parents and carers

The Department of Education is providing free swim teacher training for interested parents and carers from our school. The course is fully funded and qualifies you to teach swimming with your local school, or Australia wide. There are a range of locations and dates available. [Book your place today](#) - limited spots available. Further information can be found inside the newsletter.

## Step Up Session

On Monday 15th December, there will be a 'Step Up' session, in which students will meet their 2026 teacher, classmates and see their new classroom.

## Pupil Free Days

We have two remaining pupil free days for 2025 and these will happen at the end of the year on the 18th and 19th December. Staff will use these days to organise classrooms and programs for the start of 2026. Students will be dismissed for the year on Wednesday 17th December at 3:20pm.

## Indonesian Fundraiser

On the 9th September we held an out of uniform fundraiser for Indonesian Independence Day with the proceeds going to Ecoton, an Indonesian charity. They have kindly sent us a follow up thank you letter and some photos of students eating fresh fruit and planting 60 fruit trees that were purchased with part of our donation.

## End of Year

School concert is tonight, there will be a ground floor seating area in front of the stage and parents bringing camp chairs etc to be seated outside the barricade. This is to allow for the filming of the concert and to maximise seating.

Student reports will be published on Compass Friday 12th and our Year 6 graduation is on the 16th. Our final assembly and dismissal is on Wednesday 17th December.

## Merry Christmas

We wish the families who are leaving our school community every success for the future. Thank you for all of your support and assistance along the way, you will be missed.

With only a few days of the term remaining, I would like to thank the staff for their outstanding work this year. It has been eventful with staffing updates, camps and excursions included into the curriculum. The School Council and Parent Association members have been tremendous in their support of the policies and procedures as well as incorporating some fun in our fundraising opportunities. I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday break and look forward to catching up on your news in late January.

Shane West  
Principal

# Indonesian Fundraiser



Hello, Ms. Preu, thank you very much for the donation you have given us. We have attached the receipt of the funds.

Today, December 2, 2025, we held a tree planting activity with 50 students. Part of the donation was used to purchase 60 productive tree seedlings to be planted along the village roads and around the river. We do this during the rainy season here.



We also provide food with a zero-waste concept, free of single-use plastics, and serve healthy traditional dishes.



Those involved in this activity include teachers, students, village officials, and researchers from Ecoton. Thank you very much for your support; the students here really enjoy this activity. (pictures attached)

Regards,  
Tonis - ECOTON



# IMPORTANT DATES

## DECEMBER

<b>11th</b>	School Concert - commences 6pm
<b>15th</b>	Step Up Session
<b>16th</b>	Yr 6 Graduation
<b>17th</b>	<b>Last Day For Students 3:20pm Dismissal</b> <b>Final Assembly</b>

## 2026

## JANUARY

<b>28th</b>	School resumes for students in Years 1 - 6 on Wednesday 28th January.
<b>29th</b>	Foundation students commence

## FEBRUARY

<b>10th</b>	Whole School Photo Day
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# Wellbeing

## Happy Holidays! Tips for a Bright & Balanced Summer Break

Hi wonderful families,

As we wrap up a fantastic year, we wish everyone a restful, fun, and rejuvenating summer holiday! To help keep your child's wellbeing shining, here are some simple ideas to enjoy the break together in Victoria:

### 1. Embrace Outdoor Adventures:

- **Explore local parks,** beaches, or playgrounds
- **Discover nature** by going for walks, collecting leaves, or even trying a spot of backyard camping.

### 2. Connect & Communicate:

- **Family Game Nights:** Strengthen bonds with board games or card games.
- **"I Feel..." Statements:** Practice calmly sharing feelings, like "I felt sad when..." to build emotional intelligence.

### 3. Gentle Learning & Literacy:

- **Read Together Daily:** Visit your local library for summer reading programs or just cozy up with books.
- **Creative Play:** Encourage drawing, building, or imaginative play to keep those brilliant minds active.

### 4. Mindful Moments:

- **Limit Screen Time:** Set clear boundaries for devices to allow for more imaginative and social fun.
- **Gratitude Practice:** Talk about things you're thankful for each day to foster a positive mindset

### 5. Stay Safe & Hydrated:

- Remember sun safety and keep water bottles handy for those hot Victorian days!

See the poster on page 5 for **Healthy Digital Habits** over the holidays.

Wishing you all a summer filled with laughter, connection, and happy memories. We can't wait to see your children refreshed and ready for Term 1!

Warm Regards

**Kerry Morris**

**Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader**

# HEALTHY DIGITAL HABITS



Healthy families chat about online experiences



Prioritise sleep



No devices in bedrooms, bathrooms or toilets



Take regular breaks from screens



Trust your early warning signs



Balance screen time with green time

## NAVIGATING UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATIONS



**Do Not Respond**



**Record/ Screenshot**



**Take a Break**



**Mute/Block/ Change Settings**



**Report**



**Seek Help**



# Foundation Zoo Excursion

## Foundation Zoo Excursion

As a part of our science unit this term, students participated in an excursion to Melbourne Zoo. We participated in two activities. One activity was within a reptile room where students were able to observe and ask questions about the giant tortoises. We watched the zookeeper feed the tortoises as well. For the second activity, we became wild explorers. With binoculars and magnifying glasses, we were able to search around and learn a range of things about different animals and insects. We were able to walk around the zoo to see some amazing animals, including a baby giraffe!

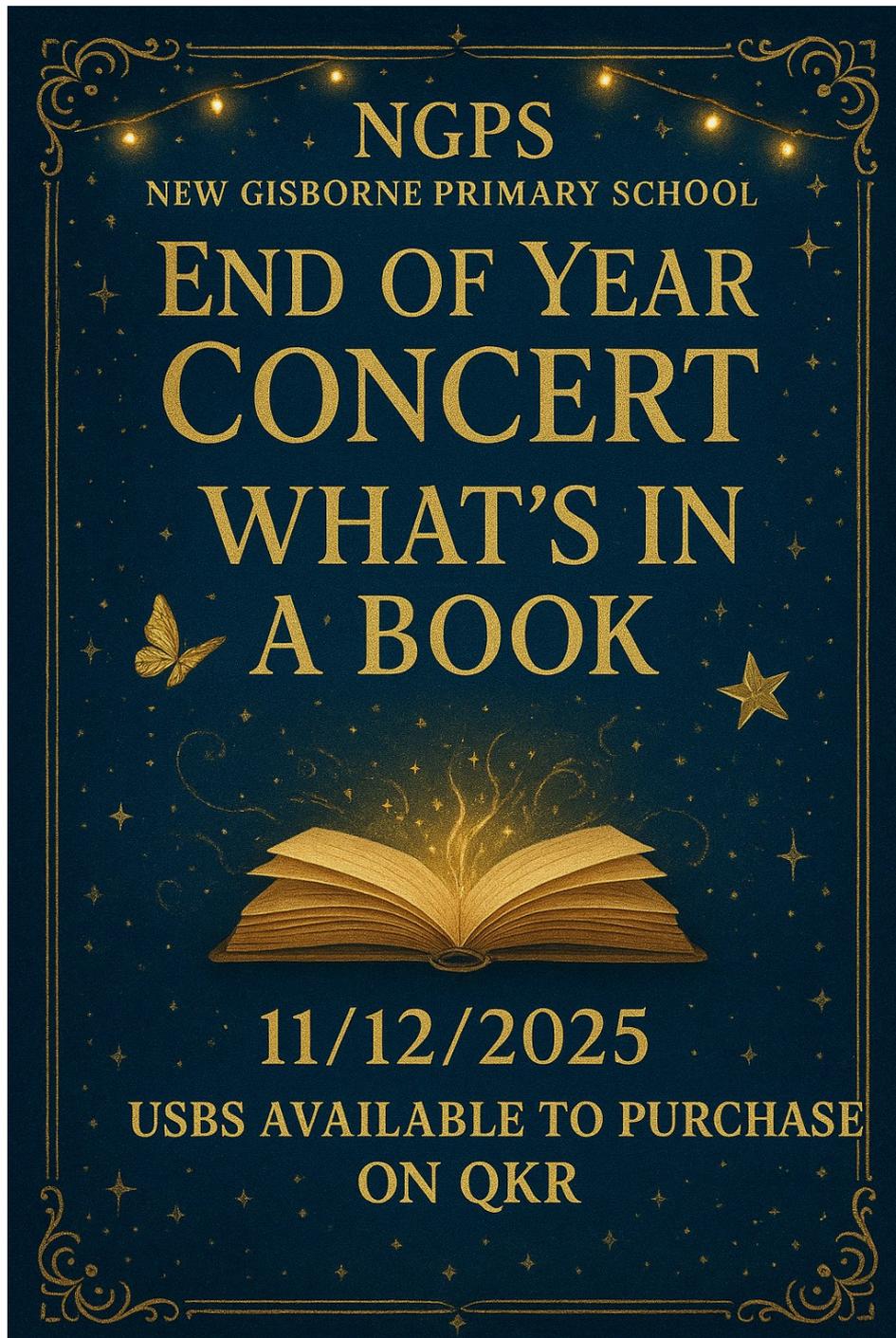
We had the best day!



# Performing Arts - End of Year Concert

Concert USBs – Available to Purchase on Qkr! Until 9am Friday Morning.

We highly encourage all families to purchase one, students (and parents) love reliving the memories year after year!



# Chester Chatter

Santa! Sparkly, tinselly trees! Cool hats! It must be nearly Christmas time. Chester would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.



# Uniform Shop

## UNIFORM SHOP 2026

Uniform shop closes Tuesday, 16th December at 11.30am.

GRADE 6 SHORT SLEEVE POLO TOPS WILL BE GIVEN OUT Tuesday, 16th December.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION JACKETS are expected first term, we have yet to be advised of delivery date.

### **SHOP REOPENS**

TUESDAY, 27th JANUARY 2026

9am - 11am

This is the DAY BEFORE our students return to school.

Please attend on this day for size exchanges, ALL TAGS ATTACHED TO UNIFORMS AND NO NAMES LABELLED FOR EXCHANGES.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Tuesday, 10th February 2026.

Shop is closed for 15-20 minutes from 8.25am for STAFF GROUP PHOTOS.

Please ensure you have purchased any new polo tops the prior week.

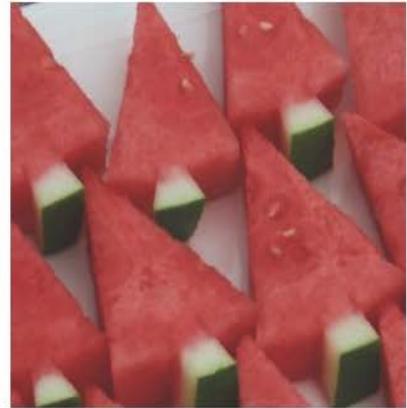
If ordering via QKR app, please order BEFORE 10.30am on Tuesday, 3rd Feb 26 for same day delivery.

Enjoy a wonderful and safe festive season, and I shall look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Trish Johnstone

Uniform Shop Manager

# Canteen Christmas Cheer



**IMPORTANT:** As tomorrow's our last canteen day for 2025, if your student has a reoccurring order in place, please cancel it & choose from the available items on Qkr!

**YOUR UNDERSTANDING IS APPRECIATED**



## E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

### e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

### e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors



### Scan the QR code to learn more

For more information (including community language translations) [transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules](https://transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules)



# Community

## Water Safety in Schools – staff and parents/carers are eligible for free swim teacher training

Teachers and parents/carers are invited to complete swim teacher training. This is part of the Water Safety in Schools initiative.

### Water Safety in Schools

- The initiative aims to support students to develop core water safety competencies.
- There is currently a shortage of available swimming teachers. This makes it difficult for schools to deliver the swimming and water safety curriculum required in the Victorian Curriculum F–10.
- This course will make it easier for schools to deliver swimming lessons for students in need.
- Training is available for staff and interested parents and carers.

### Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety

**Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety (TSW - SISSS00132)** is a nationally recognised qualification.

Graduates will qualify to deliver swimming lessons as part of your swimming program, or work with local pools and swim schools. The course is being delivered on behalf of the department by Life Saving Victoria, Swim Coaches and Teachers Australia and AUSTRALIA.

### Our school is eligible

To access the [free swimming](#) instructor training course, staff and parents/carers must be connected to a government school that meets certain criteria - Our school has been identified school as eligible.

### Book your free swim instructor training course today

To avoid missing out, book a free swim instructor training course as soon as possible.

Booking is easy and courses are available at a range of locations and dates across the State during 2025 and 2026. You can book through the [Swim Teacher Training website](#).

### Information for parents and carers

#### Free swim teacher training for parents and carers

The Department of Education is providing free swim teacher training for interested parents and carers from our school.

The course is fully funded and qualifies you to teach swimming with your local school, or Australia wide.

There are a range of locations and dates available. [Book your place today](#) – limited spots available.

### Find out more

For more information, visit the [Swim Teacher Training website](#)

# Community



Woodend Winter Arts Festival Presents

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

3.00pm Saturday 13th December 2025  
St Ambrose Church, Woodend

Join us for a family friendly afternoon of Christmas Carols, as outstanding chamber choir Ensemble Gombert, directed by John O'Donnell, bring the Christmas cheer to Woodend once again.

Imagine being in Kings College Cambridge listening to Christmas carols of many times and places, from the Medieval era to the present day, with much-loved melodies from Europe, the Americas and Australia. The program will feature some well-known carols, including many family favourites, along with some lesser-known pieces.

Listen to them in the glorious acoustics of St Ambrose Church. Don't miss what is guaranteed to be an enjoyable and uplifting performance by Australia's premier *a cappella* choral ensemble. Tickets are on sale now!



For tickets and more information visit  
[woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au](http://woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au)  
We encourage you to book online to avoid disappointment.



Gisborne and District Lions Club  
Proudly Presents

# LIONS GISBORNE FESTIVAL

4.30pm – 9.30pm  
Friday 12 December 2025  
Gardiner Reserve

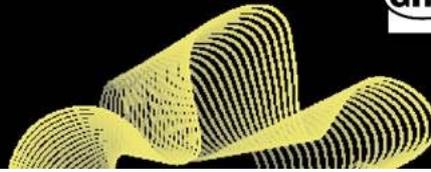
- FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT FROM 4.30PM
- STREET PARADE AT 6PM
- LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
- FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS
- MARKET & FOOD STALLS
- CARNIVAL RIDES
- FIREWORKS AT 9.15PM

**FREE ENTRY**

Major Sponsors:  
Community Bank Gisborne - Bendigo Bank, Macedon Ranges Shire Council,  
Greater Western Water, ROSALIA Gisborne, GREAT Association,  
Atlas Conveyancing Services, McDonalds Gisborne, UFS Pharmacy,  
Stoneman Foundation, Macedon Ranges Glass.

Melbourne Airport

## Noise Sharing Plan



## Have your say on the Melbourne Airport Third Runway Noise Sharing Plan

Melbourne Airport is building a third runway to support the city's growing passenger and freight demands. As part of the approval process, a Noise Sharing Plan is being developed to help manage aircraft noise and ensure communities around the airport receive meaningful breaks from noise exposure.

The Noise Sharing Plan is designed to distribute aircraft noise more fairly during off-peak times and when weather and safety conditions allow. Rather than concentrating flights over the same areas, the plan proposes alternating runway use and flight paths to give residents across Melbourne regular noise respite throughout the day.

### Why it matters

The third runway will allow for an additional 136,500 aircraft movements per year, helping Melbourne grow to 76 million passengers by 2042. While this brings economic benefits, it also means some areas may experience more aircraft noise. The Noise Sharing Plan aims to balance operational efficiency with community wellbeing.

### How you can get involved

Melbourne Airport is inviting community feedback to help shape the Noise Sharing Plan. Your input will guide how aircraft operations are managed outside peak periods and how noise is shared across different neighbourhoods.

You're encouraged to:

- Learn about the plan through [fact sheets and FAQs](#)
- View proposed flights paths around your area using the [interactive flight path and noise tool](#) to understand potential impacts in your area
- Attend upcoming person [pop up and drop in sessions](#) to learn more about the project

[Complete the survey here](#)