



GAAYIP-YAGILA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 | VOL 6. ISSUE 1

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the 2026 school year, and a very warm welcome to the many new students and families joining our Gaayip-Yagila Primary School community. It has been wonderful to see the school come to life again, with students returning settled, engaged and ready to learn.

We have had a strong and smooth start to the year, with students quickly re-establishing routines and positive learning behaviours across the school. Our staff have been working closely with students to build strong relationships and create calm, supportive classroom environments, and this has been evident in the way students have approached the beginning of the year. Thank you to families for your support in ensuring a positive return to school.



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Our 2026 Foundation students have completed their interviews with their classroom teachers and officially began their school journey. It has been a pleasure to see them settling into their new environment, developing independence, and building connections with their teachers and peers. We hope you are enjoying hearing about their early school experiences at home, including playing on our new Foundation / Year 1 playground.

I would like to offer a special welcome to our new and returning staff members for 2026:

New Staff		Returning
Miss Erika ANGELOPOULOS	Miss Celina KUSDIAN	Miss Madi ARNOLD
Ms Melissa BECKETT	Ms Marion MAXTED	
Miss Ella BEKDAMAR	Ms Ipshita NAIR	
Mr Luke BROWNLEY	Ms Jacinta WALTON	
Miss Emily FYFFE	Mr Chris WENZLAU	
Miss Merna KAKO	Miss Amy WILLIAMS	
Miss Fatma KARAGOL	Ms Mariam ZAIA	

For further information about our staffing for 2026 please see the attached 2026 Staff Directory.

A reminder that next **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**, staff have a professional learning day. This is a **Student Free Day**, as approved by School Council. Staff will be undertaking learning with Dr Nathaniel Swain, with a focus on effective and engaging teaching for all students.

As the year progresses, we look forward to working in partnership with families to support both the learning and wellbeing of students. We encourage families to reach out to classroom teachers or our leadership if you have any questions. At the **Meet and Greet** afternoon on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, we are seeking parent feedback in the form of 'Two Stars and a Wish' which you can share with your child's teacher. Our leadership team and staff look forward to catching up with you at Meet and Greet.

Wishing everyone a positive and productive year ahead.

*Kind Regards*

*Cassy Hoggins*

# 2026 CALENDAR

## Term 1

Student Free (Teacher PL)	Tuesday 10th February 2026
Meet and Greet afternoon	Wednesday 11th February 2026 (3.30 – 5.00pm).
Y6 Summer Sport – R1	Friday 13th February 2026
Assembly – W4	Monday 16th February 2026 @2.30pm
Student Leadership Morning	Thursday 19th February 2026 (9.00-12.50am)
Y6 Summer Sport – R2	Friday 20th February 2026
Sustainability – Nude Food Day	Tuesday 24th February 2026
Y6 Summer Sport – R3	Friday 27th February 2026
Colour Run 2026	Tuesday 3rd March 2026
District Swimming	Thursday 5th March 2025
Y6 Summer Sport – R4	Friday 6th March 2026
Labour Day – Student Free	Monday 9th March
NAPLAN (Y3 AND Y5)	Wednesday 11th March – Monday 23rd March 2026
Y6 Summer Sport – R5	Friday 13th March 2026
Assembly – W8	Monday 16th March 2026 @2.30pm
Ride 2 School	Thursday 19th March 2026
Harmony Day	Friday 20th March 2026
Y6 Summer Sport – R6	Friday 27th March 2026
School Cross Country	Wednesday 1st April 2026
Hat Parade	Thursday 2nd April 2026
Assembly – End Term 1	Thursday 2nd April 2026 @1.30pm
Last day of Term	Thursday 2nd April 2026 @2.10pm



## NEW LEARNING AND PLAY SPACES

### FOUNDATION AND YEAR ONE PLAY SPACE

We are pleased to share that our new Foundation / Year 1 playground is being enjoyed by students. The playground has been specifically designed for early years students to encourage active play, social interaction and inclusive participation, providing students with opportunities to develop physical skills and collaborate with peers.



Students have shown great enthusiasm for the new space and are using it respectfully and responsibly. Staff have worked with students to establish clear expectations to ensure the playground is used safely and supports positive play experiences for all. Play opportunities such as these are an important part of student wellbeing, supporting friendship building, resilience and engagement throughout the school day.

The play space currently has 2 areas. The adventure playground and a junior sandpit. We are delighted to see the playground so well used and look forward to it being a valued part of our school environment for many years to come.



## KITCHEN GARDEN

The redevelopment of our Kitchen Garden space has now been completed and is ready for students to begin using. This refreshed area will provide rich, hands-on learning opportunities focused on sustainability, food production and environmental responsibility.

Ms Pongrac is excited to get started with our Sustainability Leaders, who will play an important role in the initial planting and caring for the space. Their involvement will ensure student voice and leadership are central as the Kitchen Garden becomes part of everyday learning for all students.

We extend our sincere thanks to ID Landscapes for their work in transforming the area into a functional and engaging learning environment. We look forward to seeing students make meaningful use of the Kitchen Garden as they learn about growing, caring for and connecting with the natural world.

## SOFT FALL REDEVELOPMENT



# ASSEMBLY DATES 2026

We warmly invite families to join us at our upcoming school assemblies. Assemblies provide an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate student achievements, share important information and acknowledge the learning taking place across our school. Family attendance helps strengthen our sense of connection and reinforces the importance of celebrating student success together.

We hold three assemblies each term: two during the term and a final assembly that reflects on and celebrates our achievements for the term. Details of the dates and times for each assembly across the year are outlined below.

We look forward to welcoming families to our assemblies throughout the year.

## Term 1

Monday 16th February - 2:30pm  
Monday 16th March - 2:30pm  
Thursday 2nd April - End of term 1:30pm

## Term 2

Monday 11th May - 2:30pm  
Monday 15th June - 2:30pm  
Friday 26th June - End of term 1:30pm

## Term 3

Monday 3rd August - 2:30pm  
Monday 31st August - 2:30pm  
Friday 18th September - End of term 1:30pm

## Term 4

Monday 26th October - 2:30pm  
Monday 23rd November - 2:30pm  
Thursday 17th December - End of Year 2:30pm



# MEET & GREET

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
**3.30 – 5.00pm**

**What to Expect:**

- Meet your child's teacher
- View current learning
- Visit specialist programs
- Snack for every student in attendance



*Coming Together to Learn*

**EXCELLENCE   RESPECT   COLLABORATION   KINDNESS**

Classrooms are open for parents to view student's learning from the start of term, view the classroom and established routines and speak with the teacher. Our Specialist Team will also have their learning spaces open for parents to visit.

On Monday parents will receive an email via Xuno that has the "Two Stars and a Wish" attachment. This is an opportunity for parents to share what they believe their child strengths are areas they would like to see their child grow in 2026. Sheets will also be available on the afternoon to complete.

\*\*Please note that 4B - Ms Deepthi Fernando will host her Meet and Greet on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

*Coming Together to Learn*

# ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER 2026

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 Microsoft 365/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 these work spaces for education purposes, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in eleven community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese



## **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE, AMBULANCE COVER ARRANGEMENTS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY BROUGHT TO SCHOOL**

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents/carers of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to look into their preferred options. The Department cannot provide advice to parents/carers on the purchase of individual student accident policy or ambulance cover.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

## **MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES**

As per the Department of Education's Mobile Device Policy, we ask that any devices that can facilitate connectivity beyond the school for calls/messages/emails/internet etc are handed in to the office on arrival to school and are then collected at the end of the school day. Devices are stored in a lockable cabinet. Where students are found to have them on their person they will be taken to the office for safe keeping and parents will be contacted to collect them.

It is important that we minimise all unnecessary distractions throughout the school day so that we can optimise the learning opportunities for our students. We seek the support of all students and parents on this important matter.

\* For the purpose of this policy devices include mobile phones, smart watches, other wearable devices, iPads and other personal devices.

# SCHOOL UNIFORM

Since the return of the school year we have noticed some variations of our school uniform, particularly amongst children in Years 3-6. We would like to remind all parents that our school uniform is compulsory.

As per our School Uniform policy that is published on our school website, children should be wearing:

- Black pants or shorts
- School polo shirt (either short sleeve or long sleeve with the school logo)
- Black jumper or jacket (with the school logo)
- Summer dress or Winter Tunic with shirt

No black, labelled or free dress jumpers should be worn to school either on top or under the uniform.

The school bag also forms part of the uniform.

Please review your child's school uniform to ensure it fits the above requirements. Items can be purchased from our official uniform supplier Academy Uniforms online at <https://academyuniforms.com.au/login.php>, in person at 71 Potter Street Craigieburn VIC 3064, or contact 9768 0344.

Black pants and shorts can be purchased from all major department stores including Kmart, Target, BigW and Best & Less.



# SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

## FOUNDATION TO YEAR 2

	Art	Auslan	Science	PE
<b>FA</b>	Thursday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday / Thursday
<b>FB</b>	Thursday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday / Thursday
<b>FC</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Monday / Thursday
<b>FD</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Monday / Thursday
<b>FE</b>	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday / Thursday
<b>FF</b>	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday / Thursday
<b>FG</b>	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday	Monday / Tuesday
<b>1A</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday
<b>1B</b>	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>1C</b>	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>1D</b>	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Wednesday
<b>1E</b>	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday
<b>1F</b>	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>1G</b>	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>2A</b>	Friday	Friday	Monday	Thursday
<b>2B</b>	Monday	Thursday	Friday	Monday
<b>2C</b>	Monday	Thursday	Friday	Monday
<b>2D</b>	Monday	Monday	Friday	Thursday
<b>2E</b>	Monday	Monday	Friday	Thursday
<b>2F</b>	Friday	Friday	Monday	Thursday
<b>2G</b>	Friday	Friday	Monday	Thursday

# SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

## YEAR 3 TO YEAR 4

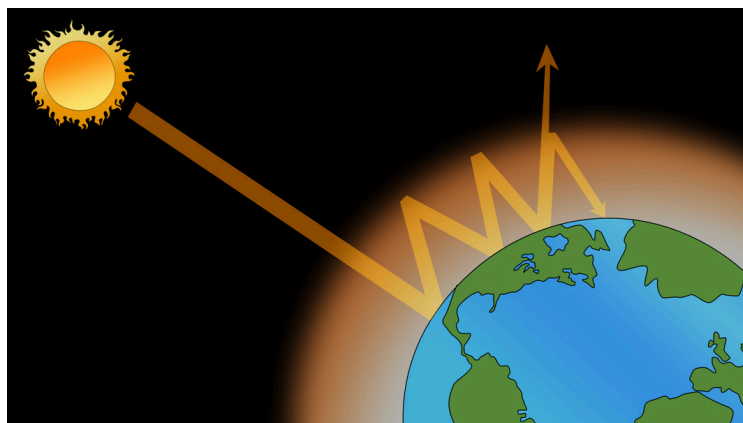
	Art	Auslan	Science	PE
<b>3A</b>	Friday	Friday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>3B</b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday	Tuesday
<b>3C</b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday	Tuesday
<b>3D</b>	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday	Wednesday
<b>3E</b>	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday	Wednesday
<b>3F</b>	Friday	Friday	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>3G</b>	Thursday	Friday	Tuesday	Friday
<b>3H</b>	Thursday	Friday	Tuesday	Friday
<b>4A</b>	Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday / Friday	Tuesday
<b>4B</b>	Wednesday	Friday	Monday / Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>4C</b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday / Friday	Monday
<b>4D</b>	Wednesday	Friday	Monday / Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>4E</b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday / Friday	Monday
<b>4F</b>	Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday / Friday	Tuesday



# SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

## YEAR 5 TO YEAR 6

	Art	Auslan	Science	PE
5A	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday / Thursday	Wednesday
5B	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday / Thursday	Wednesday
5C	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday / Thursday	Tuesday
5D	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday / Thursday	Tuesday
5E	Tuesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday
5F	Tuesday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
5G	Tuesday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
6A	Monday	Wednesday	Tuesday / Thursday	Monday
6B	Thursday	Tuesday	Monday / Wednesday	Monday
6C	Thursday	Tuesday	Monday / Wednesday	Monday
6D	Monday		Tuesday / Thursday	Monday
6E	Monday	Thursday	Monday / Tuesday	Wednesday
6F	Monday	Thursday	Monday / Tuesday	Wednesday



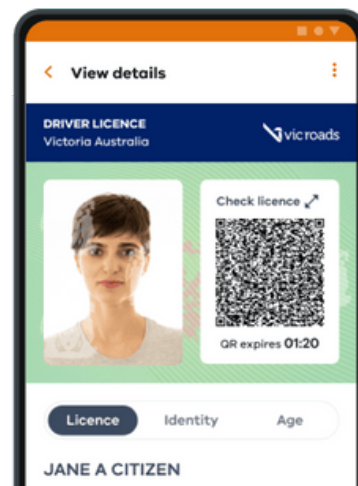
## COLLECTING STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

As a school we are committed to child safety. The following processes are in place for early collection of students.

Students are to be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian. If the student is being collected by someone other than the parent/guardian, we require the parent/guardian to call the office prior to collection to authorise on each occasion.

Verification of identity using suitable photo identification (such as a driver's licence or passport) must be sighted by school personnel for every collection.

Tip: Take a photo of your licence on your phone or download the Vic Roads App to download.



## RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOURS WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Department of Education has a policy that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults.

There are also other resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting support resources.

# CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The department administers the CSEF to help eligible families with the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions/incursions.

From 1 January 2026, families eligible for CSEF will see an increase in support to \$400 for primary and secondary school children.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities such as:

- school camps/trips
- swimming extension activities and other school-organised sport programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions/incursions that are extracurricular
- graduations/valedictories.

## Eligibility for the CSEF

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists. Schools can receive applications from families by 26 June 2026.

Families can list more than one student in the one application form if they are attending the same school.

## Submitting an application

A parent/carer will only be required to submit an application form to the school in the following circumstances:

- the parent/carer is applying for the CSEF payment for the first time – i.e. an application form was not lodged with the school in the previous year, or
- circumstances have changed – for example, there has been a change in the care arrangement of the student, a change of name or CRN, or a new sibling has started at the school and the parent/carer wishes to apply for the CSEF payment for the new sibling also.

Please see the office to complete a form.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

## CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

