



*We learn. We show respect.  
We are safe.*

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Week 1

*"Golden Past, Bright Futures"*

Canterbury Street, Vic. 3370

Telephone (03) 5345 3182

Email: [clunes.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:clunes.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

# Clunes Primary School

## Mini Newsletter (first Newsletter for the year)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Please see **Term 1 Calendar draft #1**- each fortnightly Newsletter will have new events added so please check regularly. Thank you! 😊

**Students with Asthma. Please bring your clearly labelled, up to date 2025 Asthma Management Plans to school asap.**

Our 2025 Prep/ Foundation P students have a Rest/ Assessment Day- each Wednesday for the first 6-7 Weeks (TBC) of Term 1, 2025. Year 1P students will learn with Mrs Purdie (formerly Miss Dargaville) until Recess and then 1P will be taught by Ms Jardine or Jane for the remainder of the day. Mrs Purdie will confirm the exact end date at the end of Feb. An Assessment schedule has already been forwarded to parents.

Dear Parents/Caregivers, Welcome to Term 1, 2025!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new Prep (Foundation Year) (Prep/ 1P) students and their families to Clunes PS!



Noa helping to care for our 'Goliath' Stick Insect pets during the Holiday Program.



Jack helping to care for our Stick Insect pets during the Holiday Program. Our Stickies have certainly grown!

A Prep photos collage will be included in our next week's Newsletter. 😊



**\*In 2025 we have a student who has a severe allergy to NUTS!**  
We will need to be a **NO NUTS school**, as our students mix with and play with each other across the school day. Our junior school Buddies will meet for learning activities with our senior school Buddies. Thank you sincerely for considering the safety of our students as you choose what food is placed in your child's daily snack and lunch box.

There is a Department of Education policy (included in the Newsletter) linked to CODE RED days which directly impacts our school. Please read.

Best wishes to you all for a positive week ahead! There will be a full Newsletter next week.

Kind regards, Sonia & the staff of CPS. 😊



## Newsletter article: Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and Schools at Risk of Grassfire (Category 4)

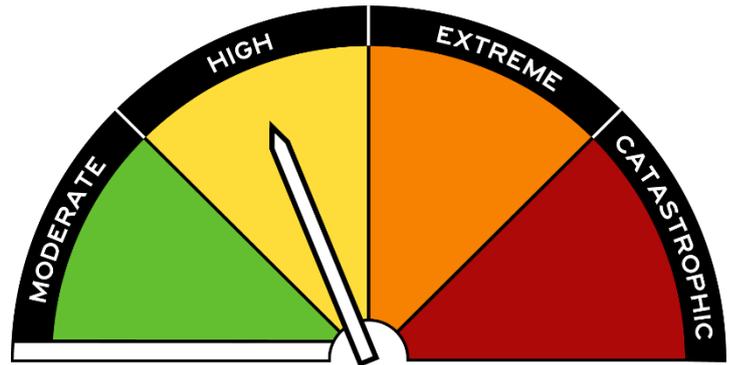
Clunes Primary School is a rated as a School at Risk of Grassfire (Category 4) school by the Department of Education.

### School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and **those at risk of grassfire (Category 4)** will be closed when a Code Red fire

**danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire or grassfire risk.**



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days' notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and SMS message/phone tree. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00pm on the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- All bus routes that travel through the Code Red area will be cancelled.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our annual Emergency Management Plan, prioritising any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire.

**What can parents do?**

**Clunes Primary School will be closed on Code Red Days.**

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your current mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our fortnightly newsletters, by checking our website- [www.clunesps.vic.edu.au](http://www.clunesps.vic.edu.au) and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- 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

---

## Your privacy

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website <https://www.clunesps.vic.edu.au/school-profile/privacy-policy/>. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#).

### *SKILL SETS THAT HELP KIDS SUCCEED*

*30 JAN 2025*

*BY MICHAEL GROSE*

*When I was teaching, as I got to know to children at the start of the year, I was always on the lookout for factors others than academic ability. As a number of researchers have found, including Prof. Michael Bernard author of the You Can Do It Program, children need more than a penchant for learning to succeed at school.*

*There are a number of skill sets that contribute to children's success over the long-term. They are skills that we neglect if we narrow our focus on numeracy, literacy, performing arts and other academic skill sets. They are also skill sets that can be taught, or at the p*

*Following are six skill sets that contribute massively to overall student success and contentedness at school.*

### **1. Friendship skills**

*The ability to get along with others is hugely important for children. How quickly children settle into a new school year will be determined as much by their ability to make new friends and fit into a peer group, as any other factor. Those children with a strong set of friendship skills have a definite set of skills that makes them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with. These skills include the ability to win and lose well; how to approach others to join in a group and how to lead rather than boss. These are just three of 17 basic friendship skills that have been identified as being essential for making and keeping friends.*

### **2. Organising skills**

*You can probably recall when you went to school a student who was really bright, but who let themselves down because they couldn't organise themselves or others. The ability to organise your time, your space, your items and others is a massive plus for any student. Being organised extends beyond school, including at home and during leisure time. The best way to help children who are organisationally-challenged is to introduce them to systems and processes to help them organise themselves. These processes include the use of visual reminders; anchoring (i.e linking new behaviours to habitual behaviours) and mapping activities out.*

### **3. Optimism skills**

*It may seem strange to see optimism as skill set, but as leading psychologist Prof. Martin Seligman discovered through his research, optimism can be taught. Seligman found that while some children are more inclined by nature to see a glass as half empty than half full, all children are capable of developing an optimistic explanatory style through exposure and direct teaching. The skills of optimism include being aware of self-talk, reframing negative events into positive effects and the practice of perspective-taking.*

### **4. Coping skills**

*Kids will generally face a number of challenges during the course of their school lives including overcoming disappointment of missing being picked in a team; working their way through difficult learning situations and meeting with rejection. How stressful these situations will depend on their own spirit, the support they receive and their coping skills.*

*The good news is that coping skills can be taught, or at the very least, encouraged, if adults know what to focus on. Coping strategies include parking problems for a while; normalising a situation and accepting and moving on. Some kids will use coping strategies quite naturally, while others need parental input to help them cope with seemingly minor challenges.*

### **5. Relaxation skills**

*The ability to relax and get away from it all is vital for the maintenance of mental health, which in turn, impacts on a student's ability to perform. Many of today's kids live with pressure. That pressure needs to be released through relaxation and play, otherwise it just continues to build and it shows itself through anxiety and other mental illnesses. The ability to relax and unwind is paramount to your child's school success. Ways to unwind include getting lost in a hobby; learning how to meditate and enjoying creative pursuits.*

### **6. Relationship skills**

*Children at school are involved in hundreds of social interactions every day ranging from working cooperatively with a peer in class through to asking a teacher for help. Most of the interactions go well, but there are times when there will be conflict and tension. This is when children with a solid set of communication and relationship skills honed through a myriad of sibling interactions come to the fore. They don't become flummoxed when a child won't give them what they want, or a child tells tales to the teacher about them. Children that come from very small families (two children or less) often don't have experiences of conflict to draw on so they need to be taught how to give way graciously; to stand up for themselves assertively rather than angrily and to see two sides to a story rather than take things personally. There are many skills we can teach our kids to help them maintain healthy relationships at school, as well as in their families.*

*These skill sets are part developmental and part environmental. That is, kids will naturally develop many skills as they mature. But also, many of the skills need to be nurtured environmentally- that is, they need to be recognised, encouraged, taught and modelled by adults that children and teenagers respect and admire if children are to acquire them. That makes parents Very Important People in the acquisition process of these skill sets in children and young people.*



#### Personal student mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal student mobile phones, including Smart Watches must not be used at Clunes Primary School during school hours, including school bus travel, lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

A **mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. For the purpose of the Clunes Primary School policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

## POLICY

Clunes Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school or wear a smart watch, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Clunes Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours at the Office.
- Smart watches worn must have network functionality disabled during school hours
- School Bus travel is considered 'school hours' – network functionality turned off.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see the full CPS Policy)
- When emergencies occur, parents or guardians should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Links to information for parents on DET website:

- [Mobile Phones in Schools](#)
- [FAQs for Parents - Mobile Phones in Schools](#)



2025

**Mr Tom Hazeldine** Gardener **Mr Jesse Parker** Business Manager **Mrs Jordyn Purdie** Year Prep/1 teacher/LS-Lit **Mrs Vicki Anderson** Year 2/3/AK teacher & PLC **Mr. Paul James** Year 3/4 teacher & PE



**Mrs Ash-Leigh Keating** Perf Arts & Vis Arts & 2/3 **Mrs Jane Thompson** DI/ DL support & Wellbeing (Tues) **Mrs Liz Garth** Aide- Mon-Wed, (OOHC) **Mr. Ash Burke** Year 5 /6 teacher/LS-Num **Mr Adam Smilevski** IT Tech - Fridays

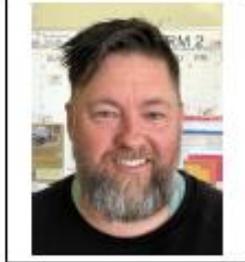


**Mrs Felicity Longmire** On Leave 2025 & A & R support **Mrs Val McNeight** Aide- Wed, Thurs & Fri **Mrs Jan Miles** Aide-Tues, Thurs & Fri **Mrs Cassie Mitchell** Year 3/4 teacher/PLC Kitchen Garden **Miss Alicia Brown** Aide- Mon- Fri



**Mrs Tomomi Mori** Japanese Specialist- Fri **Ms Shell O'Brien** Wellbeing support (Tues & Thurs)

Clunes  
PS  
2025  
Staff  
Term 1



**Ms Sonia Jardine** Principal **Mrs Di Bongiorno** Tutor Learning Initiative **Ms Tanya Ingram** Aide- Mon- Fri **Mr. Tim McKenzie** Aide – Mon- Fri **Ms Tammy Brand** Bus Driver **Ms Rhonda Rumney** Cleaner

# Class/classroom and teaching structure in 2025 updated

30/1/25

## 2025 Teaching Staff and Staff Class/ Specialist Allocations

I am pleased to be able to confirm to the school community that our 2025 Teaching Staff and Class/ Specialist allocations are:

Prep/ 1P- Jordyn Purdie (formerly Dargaville) supported daily by Tanya Ingram

2/3AK- Vicki Anderson (4 days- Mon- Thurs) & Ash-Leigh Keating (1 day- Fri) supported by Jan Miles (3 days) and Alicia Brown (daily)

3/4MJ-Cassie Mitchell (3 days) & Paul James (2 days) supported by Liz Garth and Val McNeight (each 3 days)

5/6 B- Ash Burke- supported initially daily by Tim McKenzie

Physical Education Specialist P- 6 & 3/4MJ- Paul James

Performing Arts Specialist- Ash Keating

Visual Arts Specialist- Ash Keating

Environmental Education & Kitchen Garden Program Specialist – Cassie Mitchell

Japanese Specialist teacher- Sensei Tomomi Mori

The Resilience Project, Respectful Relationships & Values & ESmart Specialists – will be integrated into our regular learning & wellbeing programs

Disability Inclusion/ Diverse Learners coordination- Jane Thompson- for one day per week in Terms 1 & 2, (as in Semester 2 2024)

Di Bongiorno will continue to implement the Tutor Learning Initiative in 2025. (mornings)

Jesse Parker- will continue as our Business Manager for 5 days per week.

Library- all class teachers & Jan Miles & Liz Garth will continue as Library support Technicians. Weekly borrowing. Families will be provided with schedule for class borrowing.

Tanya Ingram will fulfil an Education Support – Aide position for 5 days each week in 2025.

Alicia Brown will fulfil an Education Support- Aide position for 5 days each week in 2025.

Jan Miles will fulfil an Education Support- Aide position for 3 days each week in 2025.

Val McNeight will fulfil an Education Support- Aide Position for 3 days each week in 2025.

Liz Garth will fulfil an Education Support- Aide Position for 3 days each week in 2025.

Tim McKenzie will fulfill a temporary Education Support – Aide Position for 5 days each week whilst a redeployment process is undertaken. Welcome back to Clunes PS Tim.

Michelle (Shell) O'Brien will return as our School Wellbeing Support person - 2 days per week. (Tues & Thurs in 2025)

Adam Smilevski will return as our IT Technician. (Fridays am)

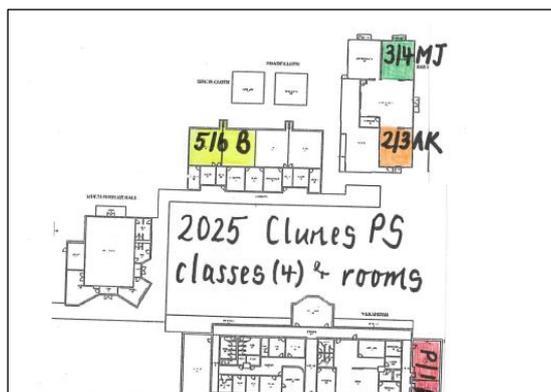


Mrs Vicki Anderson

## We have 4 classes in 2025. (4 composite classes) Prep /1P, 2 /3AK, 3 /4MJ & 5 6B.

You can be assured that teacher knowledge, planning, teacher curriculum delivery and assessment and reporting will remain of a very high quality.

## 2025 classrooms. Please see the map below.



You will see above that we have moved the 5 /6B class to allow for more space. Specialists' classrooms will remain as in 2024.



We farewell Miss **Courtney Surkitt** who has a teaching position at Snake Valley Primary School in 2025. We wish Courtney absolutely every success in the future.



Mr **Ross Adams** announced that he would retire at the end of 2024 after 12 years at Clunes Primary School. Happy Retirement Ross!



Ms **Jayde Garth** is leaving Clunes Primary School but we will see Jayde at After School Care. We sincerely thank Jayde for supporting the students at Clunes PS, at ASC & Holiday Programs.

# Kitchen Garden NEWS & thanks

The tomato plants are clean and tidy!

After a few times of checking the garden over the summer holidays, My mum, My dad and I decided to fix the tomato plants as they were growing across the ground. We used a few wooden garden stakes for holding the tomato plants up.

We tied a soft garden ribbon to the plant to support it while it grows up and out.

After making sure the tomatoes were all neat we were finished!!!

Now there's places to pick tomatoes and walk on the paths!

- Evie.D



We'd sincerely like to thank our staff and families for keeping our Kitchen Garden and Fruit Trees healthy and happy over the Summer school holiday period. Special thanks is extended to Tom our Gardener and Anton our Community Volunteer as well as the Dossor family, the Rhodes family and the Mitchell family. Our fruit is a little late to ripen this year but students will be able to pick the fruit to eat and also we will be able to use it for our Kitchen Garden & Cooking Program in coming weeks once ready. Thanks to our Holiday Program kids and staff too! Our apricots and berries we've missed but we will enjoy tomatoes, zucchini, apples, plums, pears, nectarines, peaches and pomegranates.

## SCHOOL LUNCHES - TERM 1 -

Orders must be placed online by 9am Tuesday  
prior to the delivery date.

NO late orders will be accepted.

Orders cannot be refunded in the event of  
student absences.



Available every week a range of salad rolls or wraps with your choice of fillings.

Vegetarian and Gluten Free option available every week.

Choice of side dish of Water, Milk, Juice, Jelly, Fruit Cup or Cookie

### \$6 MEAL DEAL

**6TH FEB -**

HAMBURGER W CHOICE OF LETTUCE, CHEESE AND TOMATO

**13TH FEB -**

CHICKEN TENDER WRAPS W CHOICE OF LETTUCE, CHEESE AND  
TOMATO

**20TH FEB -**

PIE, SAUSAGE ROLL OR PASTIE

**27TH FEB -**

LASAGNE WITH SALAD

**6TH MARCH -**

HOT DOGS W OPTIONAL CHEESE

**13TH MARCH -**

FRIED RICE

**20TH MARCH -**

NUGGETS & CHIPS OR SALAD

**27TH MARCH -**

PIZZA CHOICE OF CHEESE & HAM, CHEESE OR PEPPERONI

**3RD APRIL -**

FISH BITES & CHIPS OR SALAD

To Order Scan QR Code or visit  
<https://clunes-top-shop.square.site/>

Online orders  
**ONLY**



**Term 1 Calendar – Draft #1 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

|         |       |        |  |
|---------|-------|--------|--|
| WEEK 1  | Mon   | 26-Jan | Australia Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY   |
|         | Tue   | 27-Jan | Staff Professional Learning Day Statewide Student Free Day Clunes PS   |
|         | Wed   | 28-Jan | Staff Professional Learning Day Student Free Day Clunes PS Day 2   |
|         | Thurs | 29-Jan | Students first day of Term 1 2025 short whole school Assembly in the Multi-Purpose Hall<br>Prep/ 1 & new parents to Clunes PS- welcome gathering, information & morning tea in the Staff Room<br>Department of Education (DE) Attendance data collection<br>Mini Newsletter home to families. (Hard copy & electronically) |
|         | Fri   | 30-Jan |  |
| WEEK 2  | Mon   | 3-Feb  | Assembly- School Captains Welcome- Induction of School Captains & Vice-Captains (badges presented)   |
|         | Tue   | 4-Feb  | Every Tuesday is Walk to school Tuesday. Meet Mr. James & Shell at the Queen’s Park playground at 8.30am   |
|         | Wed   | 5-Feb  | Prep/ Foundation students Rest Day/ Assessment Day   |
|         | Thu   | 6-Feb  | First FULL Newsletter home. (Newsletters home each fortnight, sent via email & placed on the school’s website) Notice of School Council election   |
|         | Fri   | 7-Feb  |  |
| WEEK 3  | Mon   | 10-Feb | Assembly- Induction of House Captains & House Vice-Captains (badges presented)   |
|         | Tues  | 11-Feb | Student Support Group meetings begin today   |
|         | Wed   | 12-Feb | Prep/ Foundation students Rest Day/ Assessment Day<br>School Council Meeting 7pm (School Finance Meeting 6.30pm)   |
|         | Thu   | 13-Feb | Closing Date for School Council elections  |
|         | Fri   | 14-Feb |  |
| WEEK 4  | Mon   | 17-Feb | Assembly- Induction of Junior School Council (JSC) representatives (badges presented)<br>2025 Clunes PS Welcome BBQ, Open Classrooms evening & Parent Education evening  |
|         | Tues  | 18-Feb |  |
|         | Wed   | 19-Feb | Prep/ Foundation students Rest Day/ Assessment Day<br>Junior School Council Meeting 1.10pm   |
|         | Thu   | 20-Feb |  |
|         | Fri   | 21-Feb |  |
| WEEK 5  | Mon   | 24-Feb |  |
|         | Tue   | 25-Feb |  |
|         | Wed   | 26-Feb | Prep/ Foundation students Rest Day/ Assessment Day   |
|         | Thurs | 27-Feb | School Council elections - Close of Ballot   |
|         | Fri   | 28-Feb |  |
| WEEK 6  | Mon   | 3-Mar  |  |
|         | Tue   | 4-Mar  | Emergency Management- fire drill School Council elections- Declaration of School Council Ballot  |
|         | Wed   | 5-Mar  | Prep/ Foundation students Rest Day/ Assessment Day   |
|         | Thu   | 6-Mar  |  |
|         | Fri   | 7-Mar  |  |
| WEEK 7  | SUN   | 9-Mar  | 13 <sup>th</sup> Vintage Truck Show - 1 <sup>st</sup> Clunes school FUNDRAISER for 2025- many helpers required PLEASE see Sonia  |
|         | Mon   | 10-Mar | Labour Day – Public Holiday  |
|         | Tues  | 11-Mar |  |
|         | Wed   | 12-Mar | TBC final Prep/ Foundation students Rest Day/ Assessment Day NAPLAN School Council Meeting AGM   |
|         | Thu   | 13-Mar | NAPLAN   |
| WEEK 8  | Fri   | 14-Mar | NAPLAN   |
|         | Mon   | 17-Mar |  |
|         | Tues  | 18-Mar |  |
|         | Wed   | 19-Mar | Junior School Council Meeting 1.10pm   |
|         | Thurs | 20-Mar | Koorie students- Cultural Gathering Yrs 1-6  |
|         | Fri   | 21-Mar | Harmony Day/ Focus Day-mixed groupings across the school & optional dress up theme day   |
|         | Sat   | 22-Mar | BOOK TOWN – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Clunes school FUNDRAISER for 2025- many helpers required PLEASE see Sonia  |
|         | Sun   | 23-Mar | BOOK TOWN – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Clunes school FUNDRAISER for 2025- many helpers required PLEASE see Sonia  |
| WEEK 9  | Mon   | 24-Mar | Proposed Clunes PS – Senior school Swimming Sports Yrs 3-6 - Clunes Pool – approx. 11.30am start   |
|         | Tue   | 25-Mar |  |
|         | Wed   | 26-Mar |  |
|         | Thu   | 27-Mar | Proposed Term 1 DISCO – theme decided by our Junior School Council   |
|         | Fri   | 28-Mar |  |
| WEEK 10 | Mon   | 31-Mar | Proposed Clunes PS – Senior school Swimming Sports Yrs 3-6 - Clunes Pool – approx. 11.30am start   |
|         | Tue   | 1-Apr  |  |
|         | Wed   | 2-Apr  |  |
|         | Thu   | 3-Apr  | Proposed Term 1 DISCO – theme decided by our Junior School Council   |
|         | Fri   | 4-Apr  | Last day of Term 1 2.30pm finish . (casual dress day- no gold coin donation. Each last day of Term is casual dress)  |



**\*\* To be confirmed: Clunes PS Senior Swimming event, Inter- school Swimming events Other Meetings & events – TERM 2 STARTS TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL**