

Be kind, be brave, be your best

Newsletter no 1
February 4th, 2025

Principal's Chat

Hi everyone,

Welcome back to our school families and a warm welcome to our new families for 2025. We have sixteen Preps this year: Ahmaya, Amelia, Belle, Carter, Charlotte, Evelyn, Hazel, Hudson, Mabel, Mirabai, Noah, Patrick, Pippa, Sophia, Tully and Violet. The school year has begun smoothly, with both staff and students focusing on developing routines and setting expectations during our Start-Up Program. For the first two weeks this is our main priority to ensure that our learning environment is safe, supportive and positive for everyone.



THIS WEEK AT M.P.S.

Wednesday 5th February

- Prep rest day

Friday 7th February

- No Friday fundraiser
- No Assembly

Monday 10th February

- Learning guitar information session for parents, 3.15pm

Tuesday 11th February

- Safer Internet Day



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 17th February

Parent reading information session

Wednesday 19th February

School Council, 6.30pm

Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th
February

Parent teacher Meet and Greet
interviews

Tuesday 11th March

Curriculum Day, no students required
at school

I would like to welcome the following new and returning school staff:

Grade Prep/1 teacher – Melissa Usher

Grade 1/2 teacher – Callum Arrowsmith

Grade 3/4 teacher – Jesse Berry-Smith

Grade 5/6 teacher – Lauren Peeler and Danica Flett

Visual Arts teacher, Performing Arts teacher, PE Specialist and Learning Tutor – Kirby Kneebone

Japanese language teacher – Sharyn Morrice

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader – Carmen Bunting

Business Manager – Debra Watson

Education Support Staff – Zoe Aldridge, Anna Robertson, Nathan Lanyon, Phil Timms and Nancy Douglas

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader is a new role in primary schools and is funded through the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) initiative. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (Carmen Bunting) will work across the school to implement a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. This includes:

- building the capacity of school staff, in particular classroom teachers, to identify, support and promote student mental health and wellbeing
- supporting the school to create clear referral pathways internally (within school) and externally (to community services) for students identified as requiring further assessment and intervention
- coordinating targeted mental health support for students by working with regional staff, school wellbeing and leadership teams, teachers, parents/carers and external agencies
- advocating for student voice and agency in their wellbeing and mental health needs.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leaders receive evidence-based training in mental health literacy, supporting student need and building school capacity, and receive ongoing professional development through Communities of Practice. The training program is developed and facilitated by the University of Melbourne.

We believe that learning is most effective when there is a strong, supportive partnership between parents/carers and the school. In a positive partnership, both parents/carers and teachers can openly discuss concerns, share strategies and work together to find solutions. **Our Parent Teacher Interviews (“Meet and Greet” meetings) are scheduled for Tuesday 25th February and Thursday 27th February where parents/carers will meet with their child’s classroom teacher/s.** This is a valuable opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in, share their strengths and interests and address any concerns or support needed to help ensure a successful school year. Bookings will open at 4pm today on uEducateUs, so please log in to uEducateUs to book or phone the office for an appointment. For students with additional needs, teachers meet with parents/carers through Student Support Group (SSG) meetings. The SSG day for this term is scheduled for Tuesday 4th March. Parents/carers who need to attend these meetings will be notified via uEducateUs, and bookings will also open today. Please phone the office if you need help with the booking process.

The weather has been very hot for the start of the school year and it looks like this will continue over the next couple of weeks. According to our extreme weather policy:

- An extreme weather timetable may include no outdoor play, shortening of outdoor play, limiting outdoor play to shaded/undercover areas and limiting outdoor play to areas without trees.
- If the temperature is 38 degrees Celsius or above on the Bureau of Meteorology website, an extreme weather timetable will be called and children will not be permitted to play outside.
- In instances where outdoor play is optional, staff will be rostered on to supervise both indoor and outdoor spaces.

You can access our Extreme Weather Policy here <https://maldonps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Extreme-Weather-Policy-2024.pdf>

Take care

Alisa

2025 Curriculum and Other Contributions

Thank you to the families who have made Curriculum and Other contributions for 2025. Your financial support is invaluable and helps us to ensure your students are offered every educational opportunity possible as well as ensuring that we can maintain and revitalise the school buildings and yard. These contributions are used to supplement the funds received by the department to run our school.

Contributions can be made at any time throughout the year and the amount of the contribution is up to individual families (all families indicated at the end of 2024 the contributions that they would be paying in 2025). Contributions can be made in one lump sum or smaller amounts if that works for your budget. If you haven't yet made any contributions but are able to do so please feel free to make payment at your convenience. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, direct deposit, Bpay or Eftpos (2% surcharge applies). Please contact the office to obtain your Bpay details or the school bank account details if you do not have them.

Office information

uEducateUs: Maldon Primary School uses uEducateUs, an electronic communication system, to manage absences, permission slips, newsletters, parent teacher interviews and other communication such as school wide announcements in case of emergency. uEducateUs can be accessed on a computer and/or mobile phone. The uEducateUs app is available for both Apple and Android devices from the relevant app store. **It is VITAL that all parents access and check uEducateUs on a regular basis.** New families were emailed their login details two weeks ago. Please ask Debra in the office if you need assistance in setting up or using uEducateUs. If any families, new or existing, have lost or forgotten their login details please contact the office.

Each week on TUESDAY the newsletter will be published electronically, on both uEducateUs and the school website <https://maldonps.vic.edu.au/>

The newsletter is our major form of home/school communication and it is vital that all families read it weekly. If internet access is a problem please contact the office and a paper copy of the newsletter can be sent home.

Camps, Sport and Excursions fund: The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps to ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. **Families who hold a valid means tested concession card are eligible to apply.** A special consideration category is also available.

A payment of \$150 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards **camps, sports and excursions costs** for the benefit of students. Please note that this payment cannot be used for school contributions, uniform etc.

In 2025 you will not need to resubmit an application form if you were a CSEF recipient at Maldon in 2024- your information will just be rolled over. You will need to submit a new form if:

- **Your child has just started at Maldon Primary School OR started at Maldon Primary School in 2024 but did not apply for CSEF at Maldon.**
- **There has been a change in family circumstances such as a change of custody, change of name or CRN or if new siblings are commencing at the school.**

If your family is eligible to receive CSEF and you haven't yet completed an application form, a CSEF form can be obtained from the office. All applications are **due back at school by Tuesday 18th February.**

Please see Debra in the office if you have any questions regarding CSEF.

Bus Travellers: Most families with bus travellers have returned their forms for 2025. **If you have not yet done so please return your bus application form to the office by Friday 7th February** so that an accurate 2025 bus roll can be compiled. More information regarding the school bus route, and student eligibility to use it, is available from the office.

Reminders

Mobile phones: A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

At Maldon Primary School we have a policy which requires any student who brings a phone to school to store them in the phone lockers in the office for the duration of the school day.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions and we ask that all our families support the implementation of this policy in our school. Please note that an exception to the policy may be granted for a small number of students with particular health needs. A copy of our school's mobile phone policy is available on the school website <https://maldonps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mobile-Phones-Policy-2022.pdf>

School closure during the bushfire season: Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school. **Our school will CLOSE on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Mount Alexander Shire Local Government area.** Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by uEducateUs and/or a paper note. For further information regarding school closure on Catastrophic fire danger rating days please see our Bushfire Preparedness policy on the school website <https://maldonps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Bushfire-Preparedness-Policy-2024-1.pdf>

School bell and learning times:

A reminder to all parents/families of our school times:

8:45am Teacher supervision in yard (**any children dropped at school prior to 8.45am will not be supervised by school staff**)

8:52am Get ready bell

8:55am Start learning bell

8:55am – 10:55am Learning session 1 (fruit break at 10am)

10:55am Eat morning tea in classroom

11:00am - 11:20am Outside play

11:20am – 12:50pm Learning session 2

12:50pm – 1:00pm Eat lunch in classroom

1:00pm – 1:45pm Outside play

1:45pm – 3:15pm Learning session 3

3:15pm School finishes

3:15pm – 3:30pm Teacher supervision in yard

It is important to be at school earlier than 8:55am to ensure the children have a successful day. It helps them socialise with their peers, get organised for the day and get settled, ready to start learning when the bell goes.

Please support your child in this and help them to be at school in time for the Get ready bell (8.52am).

Annual privacy reminder for our school community: 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 <https://maldonps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Photographing-Filming-and-Recording-Students-policy-2024.pdf> 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. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#).

Annual child safe reminder: Maldon Primary School has policies and procedures in place to create and maintain a child safe environment and protect students from all forms of abuse. Our Child Safety policy, Code of Conduct and Child Safety Reporting Obligations Policy are publicly available on the school website under Policies

<https://maldonps.vic.edu.au/policies/>

What's happening in the classroom?

Parent Helpers Session: Melissa, our Prep 1 teacher and Literacy Learning Specialist, will be running a session for parents who would like to help with reading in the classroom. The session will cover what the role of a parent helper looks like, how to help with reading at school and home and how to help with writing during class sessions.

This session will be on Monday, February 17th from 3.20pm – 3.50pm in the Grade 5/6 room. Child minding will be available during this session.

Please let Melissa or Debra know if you are attending the session.

Email – melissa.usher@education.vic.gov.au or phone the office on 5475 1484

Crossing Visit for Prep 1!

On Friday Prep 1 students had a visit from Ray our crossing supervisor. Ray talked to us about how to safely cross the road. Students learnt to 'Stop. Look. Listen and Think' before they cross the road.

The class then walked to the crossing with Ray and practised safely crossing with a partner. We had fun learning the correct way to cross the road!



Something which may interest our families...



OSHC ADVENTURES
School Aged Child Care

ENROL ONLINE TODAY

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Let's have an Adventure!

We are proudly partnered with

MALDON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

☀ Before School Care, After School Care ☀
☀ and Holiday Care Programs! ☀

Kickstart and wind down your child's day with our engaging Before and After School Care programs! We offer a nurturing environment where children can learn, play, and grow outside of school hours, as well as during holidays!

-  **Creative Exploration:** Let your child's creativity shine in our arts and crafts activities! From painting to sculpting, we encourage self-expression and imagination.
-  **Physical Activity:** Keep your child active and healthy with fun games and exercises! Whether it's outdoor play or indoor activities, we promote physical well-being.
-  **Social Interaction:** Foster friendships and social skills through group activities and games. Our supportive environment encourages teamwork and communication.
-  **Safe and Supervised:** Rest assured knowing your child is in a secure environment. Our experienced staff prioritise safety while providing attentive care.

Plus, during holidays, keep the fun going with our Holiday Care program! Packed with exciting activities and outings, your child will have a blast all year round.

Enrol your child in our Before School Care, After School Care and Holiday Care programs today for an active and rewarding experience!

Simply visit www.oshcadventures.com.au and go to the 'enrol now' button!





OSHC ADVENTURES



School Aged Child Care

Let's have an Adventure!

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and go to the 'enrol now' button!

 **Exciting News from OSHC Adventures: Before, After School and Holiday Care!** 

We're thrilled to be part of the vibrant Maldon PS community and to welcome your family to our Outside School Hours Care program! Our OSHC is all about fun, friendships, and making each day feel special for school-aged children.

We know that Out of School Hours Care is more than just a place to be before and after school – it's a place to play, explore, and grow. Your children will find a caring, safe, and exciting environment to nurture their social, emotional, physical, and creative needs.

Stay Connected: Using the Xplor Home App for Easy Access to Bookings & Billing

Did you know managing your child's care at Maldon PS OSHC has never been easier? With the Xplor Home App, you can access everything you need right from your phone!

Maldon PS OSHC Opening Hours

We're here to support your family's schedule! Here are our operating hours:

Before School Care: Monday - Friday, 7:00am - 9:00am

After School Care: Monday - Friday, 3:30pm - 6:15pm

Holiday Care & Pupil-Free Days: 8:00am - 6:15pm

OSHC Fees

Here's a quick look at our current fees:

Before School Care: \$25.00 (max CCS: \$3.62)

After School Care: \$35.00 (max CCS: \$5.07)

Holiday Care & Pupil-Free Days: \$97.00 (max CCS: \$14.07)

*Eligible families can receive subsidies of up to 90% on fees with the Child Care Subsidy (CCS). We strongly recommend you apply for the CCS to determine your eligibility.

Extra curricular catch up

Guitar lessons: Late last year, we invited families to submit Expressions of Interest for private guitar lessons with Roger Davies. Roger has kindly offered to host an information session for parents/carers and their child who expressed interest, providing an opportunity to meet him and discuss the details and expectations of the program. The session will be held in the Grade 5/6 classroom on Monday 10th February at 3:15pm.

What's happening in the community?

MEET & GREET UNDER 11'S & 13'S NETBALL

**Thursday 6th February
5:00pm-5:45pm**

Come along for some fun & games, meet your coaches for 2025 & stick around for a bbq dinner after.

Bring runners & water.

Contact details:
Lou Clake (U13's): 0409 518 908
Tayah Doyle (U11's): 0499 628 782

Location: Maldon Football Netball Club.

#SOARINGHIGHIN25



MEET & GREET UNDER 14.5'S FOOTBALL

**Thursday 6th February
4:45pm**

Come along for some fun & games, meet your coach for 2025 & stick around for a free bbq dinner after. Bring along a mate, zero experience required.

Any questions regarding the season, training & communication will be answered on the night.

Contact details:
Luke Dyer: 0421 382 533

Location: Maldon Football Netball Club.

#SOARINGHIGHIN25



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 The Good Bakes Company
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 1 Spring St Maldon

Relaxation Massage
 60 min / Full Body
 + Good Bakes Treat
\$75

Code Word - School

Appointment Booking link

MALDON

Lifeline
 LODDON MALLEE

safeTALK
FREE
WORKSHOPS

Tuesday March 11th
2pm-5.30pm
Maldon Neighbourhood
Centre
1 Church Street

A HALF-DAY ALERTNESS
WORKSHOP THAT PREPARES
ANYONE TO BECOME A SUICIDE
ALERT HELPER.

This activity is supported by funding from Murray PHN through the Australian Government's PHN Program.