

# RGPS CONNECTIONS

'Together We Can for every child, every day'



OCTOBER ISSUE #10



## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Welcome to Term 4- There are lots of great things happening as we head towards the end of our year. Please check the calendar for dates coming up including Grade 6 graduation on 11th December, Class parties in Week 9, and the Art Show in Week 7.

State Wide Transition Day is on Tuesday 10th December. On this day all students will be in their 2025 classes with their 2025 teacher. Grade 6 students attend their secondary school on this day as well.

We invite all our families to our final assembly for 2024 on Friday 6th December at 2:15pm. This is our awards assembly. There will also be the announcement of our **Ultimate 2024 Student Values Award** for student's who have received the most values cards this year.

Last week we celebrated and thanked our teachers for World Teachers Day! We are so lucky at River Gum to have teachers that provide learning environments for every student, every day, that ensure they can be the best that they can be.

Robyn Trzeciak | RGPS Principal

\*We have moved to a monthly publication in 2024. Our next edition will be at the end of November.



## 1

## CURRICULUM DAY

As advertised, on **Monday 4th November** will be a Curriculum Day, and hence a **student-free day**.

Teachers will be using this day to complete student reports.

**CLOSED**

## 2 NUDE FOOD DAY

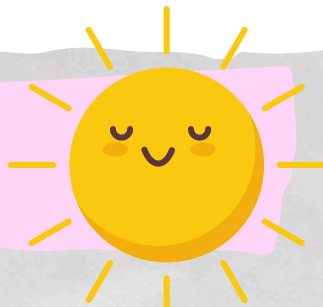


As part of their project focusing on 'Life on Land and Life below Sea', Nudara, Kevin, Elias, Mariam, Kabir and Ruby from the Masterclass have been running two Nude Food Days. These days encouraged RGPS students to reduce their amount of rubbish in their lunchboxes. This helps their overall aim of reducing the impact that we have on our local wildlife.

As a school we were able to reduce our total number of rubbish in students lunch boxes by over 40%!

We wish these students all the best in their final presentation at Bunjil Place on 18th November.

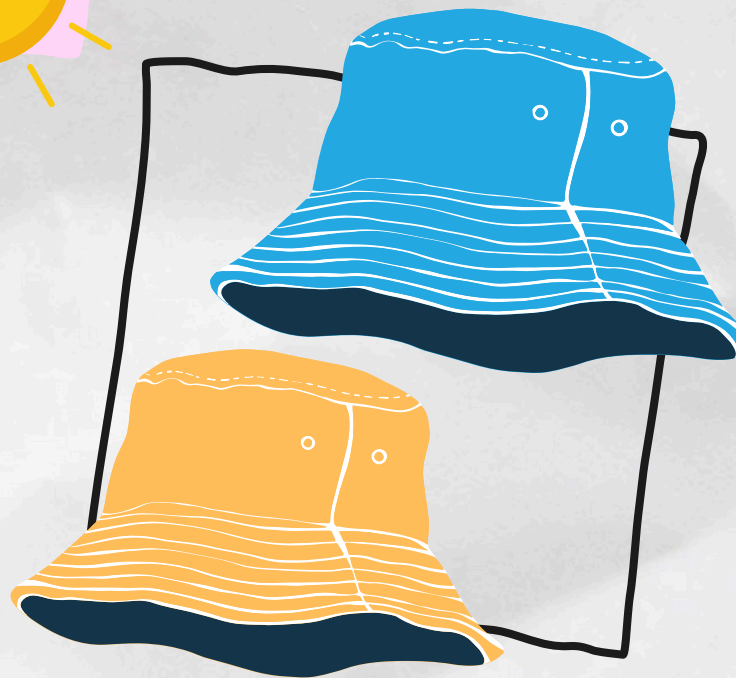
## 3 SUN SAFETY



A reminder that students are to wear their hats in Term 4 when playing outside.

Students without a hat will be asked to play in the shaded area.

New RGPS bucket hats in your child's House colour can be purchased from the Office.



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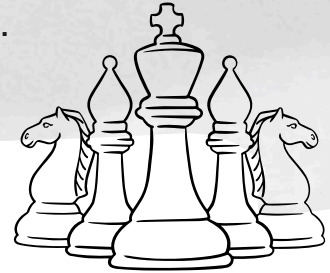
4

## CHESS SEMI-FINALS



In week 3 of this term, 3 of our students represented River Gum at the Northern Star Chess Semi-Finals at Karingal Primary School. Dylan, Rasmey and Andy were part of the top 30% at Regionals and qualified for the next step. Unfortunately the boys were unable to make it through to the finals but they did River Gum proud to get this far.

We look forward to getting one step further next year.



5

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION

We encourage all Year 6 families to save the date for our upcoming Year 6 graduation ceremony.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate students past 7 years of schooling so we hope to see everyone there!



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# 6 ATTENDANCE

We are excited to announce that **the circus is coming to River Gum!**  
Well ... kind of.

This year to acknowledge those students who consistently attend school, we will be awarding the top 10% of students with the highest attendance for the year. They will receive a ticket to join an incursion held here at RGPS ran by 'The Circus Crew'. Students will get the chance to use juggling balls, diabolos, spinning plates, hula hoops, ribbons, stilts and even some human balance.



## 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

|   |                               |                            |                             |                             |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>If your child misses...</b>                  | <b>1 DAY</b><br>per fortnight | <b>1 DAY</b><br>per week   | <b>2 DAYS</b><br>per week   | <b>3 DAYS</b><br>per week   |
| <b>That equals...</b>                           | <b>20 DAYS</b><br>per year    | <b>40 DAYS</b><br>per year | <b>80 DAYS</b><br>per year  | <b>120 DAYS</b><br>per year |
| <b>Which is...</b>                              | <b>4 WEEKS</b><br>per year    | <b>8 WEEKS</b><br>per year | <b>16 WEEKS</b><br>per year | <b>24 WEEKS</b><br>per year |
| <b>and over 13 years of schooling that's...</b> | nearly <b>1.5 YEARS</b>       | nearly <b>2.5 YEARS</b>    | over <b>5 YEARS</b>         | nearly <b>8 YEARS</b>       |

Which means your child's learning progress might be



7

# HOUSE POINTS

CHAMPION #1

It's official - the winners of the House Cup this year will get the opportunity to create their own yummy fruit smoothie using a smoothie bike! This prize will be awarded to the house who earns the most house points. A reminder that house point sticks are worth 1 point, value cards are worth 5 points and Principal's Pride awards are worth a staggering 15 points.

Every point counts!

Below is an update on the house point totals this year so far. Well done to the Purple Parrots.



## HOUSE POINTS LEADERBOARD

|                     | POINTS | RANK |
|---------------------|--------|------|
| PURPLE PARROTS      | 13,482 | 1ST  |
| ORANGE DINGOES      | 13,182 | 2ND  |
| BLUE TONGUE LIZARDS | 13,152 | 3RD  |
| YELLOW COCKATOOS    | 12,761 | 4TH  |



Download the Compass parent guide here:  
<https://cdn.compass.education/knowledgebase/CompassParentGuide.pdf>



## 8

## SPORTS UPDATE

**Rugby Gala Day**

The 16th of October River Gum had a Rugby Gala Day for the year 5&6's. It was a fun day with lots of fun games while playing other schools. River Gum had a tackle and touch team where both teams did well. We would like to say a big thank you to Miss Rixon and Mr Fenner for coaching the teams. By Masoma and Robert

**Athletics**

We would like to congratulate Zeph in R27 who qualified for Region Athletics in Discus.

**Physical Education: Bike Ed**

This term students have started learning about Bike Ed. The last 2 weeks we had Sonia from Auscycle visit to teach the students about bike safety.

Sonia has taught about:

- How to fit a helmet
- The ABCDE bike check
- How to break safely
- How to ride as a group
- How to identify hazards to avoid accidents
- How to ride safely following the road rules



# 9 GET ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM

We're excited to announce that Round 8 of the Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open!

Round 8 is open for voucher and reimbursement applications from Wednesday 9 October 2024, until the funding allocation runs out. Eligible families can apply for either a \$200 voucher or reimbursement for each eligible child.

To be eligible, your child/dependent must be:

- a Victorian resident
- aged 0 to 18 years old
- named on a Health Care Card and Medicare Card, or
- named on a Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare Card.

Special consideration may apply if your child/dependent is a Victorian resident, aged zero to 18 years old and is currently residing in Victorian Care Services or a temporary visa holder, undocumented migrant or international student.

## How do I use my voucher?

Present your voucher code to your activity provider when you pay and get up to \$200 off the cost of registration and membership (as well as any included uniforms and equipment). Choose your activity provider carefully as there are no cancellations for change of mind. Apply for a voucher while the round is open and use it for a summer sport, winter sport or term-based activity until vouchers expire on Tuesday 29 April 2025.

[Apply for a voucher](#)

## How do I apply for reimbursement?

If you have already paid for your child's activity, you can apply for reimbursement.

You must have paid for your child's activity between 1 July 2024 until the time of submitting the application to be eligible for reimbursement.

[Apply for reimbursement](#)

More information is available on the Get Active Kids Voucher Program page.



# 10 SCHOOL SAVING BONUS



Dear parents and carers,  
In Term 4, 2024, families with a child enrolled in a government school from Prep to Year 12 in 2025 will receive the one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

The \$400 School Saving Bonus provides families with support for education-related costs, such as school activities and/or school uniforms and textbooks.

The School Saving Bonus is not available for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

## Actions for parents and carers:

**Before 18 October 2024**, the Department of Education is asking parents and carers to:

- **Complete enrolment:** If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).
- **Check your contact information:** Ensure your email address and phone number is up to date with us. You can check this information by contacting us directly.

We need to ensure your contact information is up to date as the Department of Education will email you twice:

- in October, to verify your email address
- in November, with your \$400 School Saving Bonus and access to an online system.

Please check your junk mail regularly to make sure you do not miss an important email.

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus, download the [School Saving Bonus Information sheet for government school parents and carers](#) or visit [vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus](http://vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus).





We are happy to announce that from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 we will transition to a new Uniform Supplier, Beleza School Uniforms.

Beleza is conveniently located in Hallam and will offer the same range as our previous provider at cheaper prices for our school community.

The last day to make purchases at PSW will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

See information below regarding a Beleza uniform sale in November!



**To All Families of River Gum Primary School,**

As your school's uniform supplier, we would like to welcome you to our Beleza Hallam store!

### LOCATION

#### **Beleza Hallam Store**

7/151-159 Princes Hwy  
Hallam VIC 3803

**PHONE** (03) 9702 3181

### OPENING HOURS

#### **Monday to Friday:**

9:00am to 5:00pm

**Saturday:** 9:00am to 1:00pm

**Sunday:** CLOSED

All uniform items are available for purchase on our online store 24/7 at [beleza.com.au/online-store](http://beleza.com.au/online-store). Flat rate of \$10 shipping applies for all orders under \$100; free standard shipping over \$100.

### **EXCHANGES**

All uniform items can be exchanged within 4 weeks of purchase if it is brand new with all price tags attached. This must be presented with the proof of purchase.

### **DISCOUNTS (RETAIL STORE ONLY)**

#### Membership discount:

- 10% off all purchases, all year round (no-cost membership required)

#### VIP sale:

- 20% off all Beleza branded uniform items (excluding existing discounts)

**This year's sale is in November 16 – November 23**

Your uniform will be available to purchase from Beleza School Uniforms from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of November at our online store at [www.beleza.com.au](http://www.beleza.com.au)**. Items will be in-store by Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

We look forward to meeting you all soon!

Warmest Regards,

*Beleza Team*



## Foundies at Myuna Farm

On Tuesday 22nd October we went on our very 1st excursion to Myuna Farm!

When we arrived, we were greeted by the friendly staff, chickens, ducks and enormous peacocks. We watched an educational show about life on the farm and practiced milking a goat. We went for a walk on the pasture and patted baby animals in the nursery. We fed a flock of sheep, a herd of deer, baby guinea pigs and made friends with Alice the camel.

We used all our strength to grind wheat to make flour and then went on an adventurous train ride along the wetlands, where we saw fruit bats. We carefully went on a trail walk across a pier and dashed through long wavy grass.

We loved our visit to Myuna Farm!



## Monash University BIO-Eyes Incursion

On Thursday 17th of October a group of students were invited to a Monash University program for high ability students to examine a type of fish called a Zebra fish.

We learned about how Zebra fish get pregnant with a male and how the eggs are made and what they look like. We also looked at baby fishes and used a microscope to look inside of it - we could do that because of it being transparent. We learned lots of fun facts about Zebra fishes.

We worked in groups of 3 to 4 and discovered their body parts and how the baby fishes grow.

At the end we did questions from the start of the lesson and tried to answer using everything we learnt. We think that the program is a fun way to learn about biomedical science.

*By Mohammad Yousufi and Gulalai Asadi (R27)*



14

LIFELONG LEARNING



YOU'RE INVITED

## 'WRITER IN RESIDENCE' BOOK LAUNCH

*We welcome all friends and families of our young authors to join us at River Gum Primary School for our book launch event.*

*Light refreshments provided.*

**Date:** Wednesday 20th November

**Time:** 4:00pm - 5:30pm

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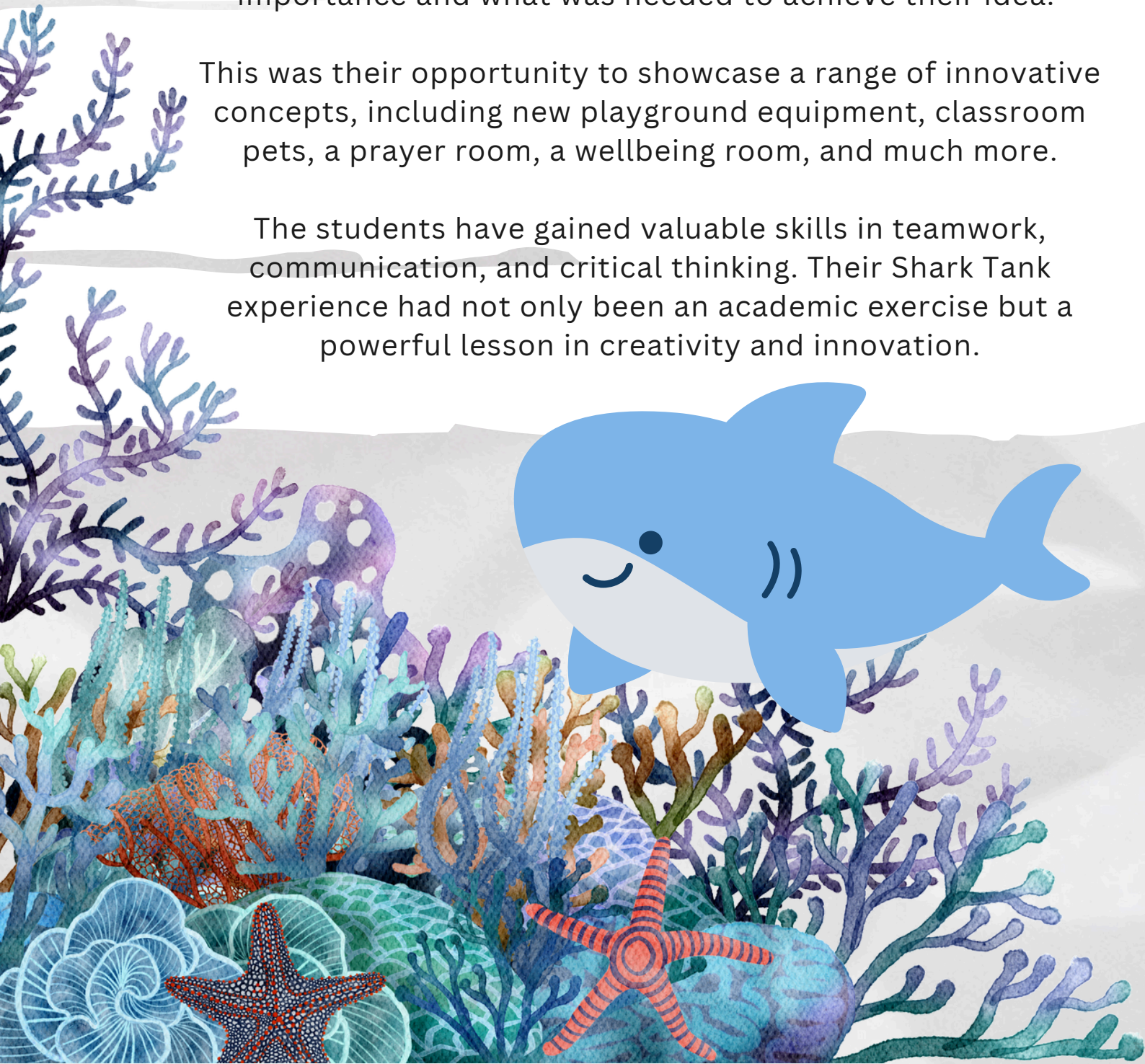
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In Term 3, the senior school students participated in a “Shark Tank” project, they were grouped together to brainstorm and research ideas for improving or changing aspects of River Gum Primary School.

After weeks of brainstorming, researching, and refining their pitches, the students finally presented their ideas to the “sharks.” Their presentations consisted of costs, the importance and what was needed to achieve their idea.

This was their opportunity to showcase a range of innovative concepts, including new playground equipment, classroom pets, a prayer room, a wellbeing room, and much more.

The students have gained valuable skills in teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. Their Shark Tank experience had not only been an academic exercise but a powerful lesson in creativity and innovation.



16 EPIC ENGAGEMENT

# CAMP

Notices for the Year 4 and Year 6 camps in 2025 have been sent home. Please see the posters below for the dates, cost and itinerary of each camp.

We encourage families to utilise their 'School Saving Bonus' to cover the cost of these camps.

We hope to see all students there!

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|     | <b>10-11<br/>FEBRUARY<br/>2025</b>  |   | <b>17-19<br/>MARCH<br/>2025</b>   |   |
|  | <b>Year 4<br/>Golden<br/>Valleys<br/>Adventure<br/>Camp</b>   | <b>TOTAL COST<br/>\$200</b>   |  | <b>TOTAL COST<br/>\$330</b>   |
|  | <br>Golden Valleys<br>Adventure<br>Camp, Flinders | <b>2 days,<br/>1 night<br/>Arthurs's Seat,<br/>Giant Swing,<br/>Vertical<br/>Challenge,<br/>Climbing Wall</b>             |   |  |
|  | <br>The Island<br>Accommodation,<br>Newhaven     | <b>3 days,<br/>2 nights.<br/>Surfing,<br/>Churchill Island,<br/>Penguin Parade,<br/>Koala Park,<br/>Nobbies Boardwalk</b> |  |   |

17

# TERM 4 CALENDAR

Keep this handy!

**Last assembly for the term is to be confirmed!**

|                         | Monday              | Tuesday  | Wednesday                            | Thursday   | Friday                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>7/10   |                     | 2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition   |                                      |  |                                  |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>14/10  | Year 5 Masterclass  | Grade 6 Graduation and House Captain Photos<br>2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition                          | Year 5 and 6 Rugby Gala              | High Ability Year 4-5 Bio Eyes/Monash University | 2.15- Whole School Assembly      |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>21/10  | World Gratitude Day | Foundation Myuna Farm Excursion<br>Year 5 and 6 Atleth Speed Careers<br>2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition |                                      |  | World Teachers Days              |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>28/10  |                     | 2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition   |                                      |  |                                  |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>4/11   | Curriculum Day      | Public Holiday- Melbourne Cup<br>No School   |                                      |  | Year 2 Museum and Imax Excursion |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>11/11  | Remembrance Day     | First Lego Lead Excursion<br>2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition  | World Kindness Day                   |  |                                  |
| <b>Week 7</b><br>18/11  |                     | 2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition   | Writer in Residence Book Launch      |  |                                  |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>25/11  | Circus in a Day     | 2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition   |                                      |  |                                  |
| <b>Week 9</b><br>2/12   |                     | 2.20-3.15 2025 Foundation Transition   | Year 5 and 6 Puffing Billy Excursion |  | House Point Champion Event       |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>9/12  | Year 6 Rush HQ      | State Wide Transition Day  | Year 6 Graduation                    |  | Whole School Silent Disco        |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>16/12 | Student Free Day    |  |                                      |  | Last Day of Term, 2.30pm finish  |

**NOTE:** Some events may be subject to change. Please refer to Compass and our Facebook page for updates.

# 2025 FOUNDATION TRANSITION

We would like to invite all 2025 Foundation students to attend our transition sessions.

In these sessions we will be:

- Helping students interact with other students that will be in Foundation in 2025
- Understanding the classroom spaces in the Foundation building at River Gum Primary School
- Establishing ideas around our school values and house colours
- Building confidence around the teachers and helpers that work in the Foundation team at RGPS

These sessions will occur on a Tuesday between 2.20pm and 3.15pm starting in Term 4.

Week 1 - 8 October

Week 2 - 15 October

Week 3 - 22 October

Week 4 - 29 October

Week 5 - No transition  
(Melbourne Cup Public Holiday)

Week 6 - 12 November

Week 7 - 19 November

Week 8 - 26 November

Week 9 - 3 December

Week 10 - 10 December  
(9.00 - 11.45am)

It is IMPORTANT for your child to come to the transition on the 10 December as this is when your child:

- Meet their 2025 Foundation Teachers
- See their 2025 classrooms
- Meet the others students in their class.
- Get their Ready For School pack

### Pick up and Drop off Arrangement:

For the first 4 transition sessions parents can stay for the sessions (15-29 October).

From Week 5 onwards we encourage you to come to the office, sign your child in and they will be taken by teachers to the transition session.

At the end of the sessions parents can come to the front of the Foundation Building and students will be dismissed to their carer.



# MORE 2025 FOUNDATION TRANSITION

Parent Sessions during your child's transition time:

**i** Tuesday 12 November 2.25 to 3.00  
School Uniforms and Attendance

**i** Tuesday 19 November 2.25 to 3.00  
School/Home Connections, Timetables and Student Routines at  
School

## Stay & Play

After your child's transition session stay and play on  
our Foundation Playground on:

Tuesday 19 November - 3.15 and 4.30pm

Tuesday 3 December - 3.15 and 4.30pm

