



2026

Parent Information
Booklet



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



PRIDE



EXCELLENCE

At Meredith Primary School we provide our students with an innovative learning environment and a caring, nurturing approach to student well-being. We are a rural school with excellent facilities and stimulating grounds that provide many options for students. Students take an active role in maintaining various areas within the school grounds such as our vegetable garden beds and chicken coop.

We welcome new enrolments and value parent participation. We have established strong links beyond the school and take great pride in the role that we play in the local community.

Apart from providing a curriculum that has a strong focus on literacy and numeracy we provide a range of extra-curricular activities such as school camps, interschool sport, and swimming. The various programs are also well resourced and supported by an extensive range of Information Communication Technologies that includes laptops, iPads, and interactive panels.

We also have an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program that offers quality care before and after school. This service operates according to Commonwealth Regulations and is approved for Child Care Benefit.

Contact Details

5 Wallace Street Meredith 3333

Phone: (03) 5286 1313

Mobile: 0439 611 476

Email: meredith.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.meredithps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/meredithprimaryschool

School Values



RESPECT

At Meredith Primary School we show **respect** by:

- Treating others as we would like to be treated.
 - Being kind.
 - Being inclusive.
- Looking after our school, our own and other people's property.
 - Following classroom expectations and rules.



RESILIENCE

At Meredith Primary School we demonstrate **resilience** by:

- Giving things a go and keep on trying.
- Bouncing back from our mistakes.
- Believing in ourselves and being strong on the inside.
- Giving and receiving feedback in a positive way.
- Knowing that tomorrow is a brand new day.



PRIDE

At Meredith Primary School we show **pride** by:

- Achieving our goals with joy and excitement.
- Completing our work carefully and neatly.
 - Celebrating the achievements of others.
- Taking care of ourselves and our school community.
 - Being polite and inclusive.



EXCELLENCE

At Meredith Primary School we demonstrate **excellence** by:

- Always doing our personal best
- Accepting and facing challenges
- Having a passion for learning and always striving to learn more
 - Believing we can do it
- Being a positive role model for others



MEREDITH
Primary School



BELIEF STATEMENT

School Wide Positive Behaviour

At Meredith Primary School we understand that our students are a collective responsibility within our school. We aim to embed positive approaches to build relationships. We teach the behaviours and social skills that lead to success at school and life.

Daily Routine

7.30am – 8.45am	OSHC (Before School Care)
9.00am	Classes commence
10.45am	Fruit Snack
11.00am	Recess
11.30am	Classes commence
1.30pm	Lunch, supervised eating
1.40pm	Lunch, outside play
2.15pm	Classes commence
3.20pm	Students are dismissed
3.20pm – 6.00pm	OSHC (After School Care)

Term Dates 2026

Term 1:	28 January to 2 April
Term 2:	20 April to 26 June
Term 3:	13 July to 18 September
Term 4:	5 October to 18 December

NOTE: Preps do not attend school on Wednesdays: Feb 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, March 4th, 11th

Public Holidays 2026

Labour Day	9th March
Good Friday	3rd April
Easter Monday	6th April
Anzac Day	25th April
King's Birthday	8th June
Melbourne Cup Day	3rd November

Staff

 <p>Lachlan Day Principal</p>	 <p>Simone Edmiston Inclusion</p>	 <p>Fairlie Pritchard Teacher – Grade 5/6</p>	 <p>Lorna Daglas Teacher</p>
 <p>Grace Morris Teacher</p>	 <p>Hannah Gillett Teacher</p>	 <p>Emma Beechey Teacher</p>	 <p>James Le Teacher - PE</p>
 <p>Emma Thorley Teacher – The Arts</p>	 <p>Nicole Linic Teacher – MARC Van</p>	 <p>Judith Wood Business Manager</p>	 <p>Kym Ivory OSHC Coord & Integration</p>
 <p>Denise Wessner Integration / OSHC</p>	 <p>Meg Hay Integration / OSHC</p>	 <p>Stacie Robinson Integration / OSHC</p>	 <p>Darren Stone Integration/Maintenance</p>
 <p>Nat Vervest Integration</p>	 <p>Deb Hobbs Integration</p>	 <p>Bronwyn Wood Student Wellbeing</p>	 <p>Lauren Stancliff Auslan</p>

Curriculum

The curriculum for Foundation (prep) to year 10 in Victoria is known as Victorian Curriculum. At Meredith we ensure that our curriculum is delivered in a meaningful and relevant way and that it captures their interests and is personalised to meet individual needs. Coverage of all learning areas is important, with emphasis on the core areas of English and Mathematics. For more information visit: [Home - Victorian Curriculum \(vcaa.vic.edu.au\)](http://vcaa.vic.edu.au)

Learning Technologies

Meredith Primary School has heavily invested into Learning Technologies in recent years knowing that this is a significant part of the world we live in today. Our students are provided with one-to-one devices – iPads for Foundation to Grade 2 and Laptops for Grades 3-6. Our classrooms have also been furnished with interactive panels. Using these technologies in our classes also allows us to provide an enormous range of learning opportunities which suit each child's individual needs.

Sounds-Write

At the beginning of each day all students across the school participate in Sounds-Write. Sounds-Write is a phonic approach to the teaching of reading. It is a program that begins with the sounds in our language and moves from sounds to written word. This approach is based on the sounds in speech and is a linguistic phonics program.

Home Reading Foundation – Grade 4

Goals of Home Reading:

The goal of our home reading program is to support each student's development of fluency. Fluency means reading all the words correctly at an appropriate pace with expression. Fluency is a vital reading skill and must be mastered in order to provide a solid foundation for comprehension as your child moves forward. One of the best ways to improve fluency is to read the same text repeatedly.

When we listen to children read, we are not just listening to their ability to read words correctly, but also checking how many words they read per minute to measure their fluency. This means that students may not move up a level until they are reading at the correct reading rate. By the end of Grade 2 it is expected that students read at a rate of 100 words correctly per minute.

Home Reading Diary:

Families will need to record home reading in the student's Home Reading Diary. Could you please ensure you initial the reading diary on the days your child reads to you. We would like students to aim for at least 4 nights a week.

If you would like to communicate something about your child's home reading, please let your child's classroom teacher know by writing a comment in the Home Reading Diary. Children will need to bring their book bags to school each school day.

Decodable Reader and Word Lists:

Your child will have their one decodable reader as well as a list of words to practise during the week. The list of words will be taken from the current Sounds-Write unit being taught in the classroom. Students can read their reader and the word lists each day to improve or consolidate their fluency. Students may also bring home Library books/MARC Van books for shared reading with the family.

School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPBS)






SWPBS is a framework that helps build a calmer, more settled school by teaching the behaviours we know are important. In turn that supports our learning.

At Meredith Primary School, we understand that our students are a collective responsibility within our school. We aim to embed positive approaches to build relationships. We teach the behaviours and social skills that lead to success at school and life.

Students learn appropriate behaviour in the same way a child who doesn't know how to read learns to read through instruction, practice, feedback, and encouragement.

You can tell us if you need support with your child... And we will ask to work together as a team if we need your help to understand and support your child.

'The behaviour we see, is the behaviour we reward'

		School Wide Positive Behaviour Matrix				
		ALWAYS	LEARNING SPACES	ONLINE	PLAYGROUND	COMMUNITY
 RESPECT I matter, you matter: We all deserve to be cared for understood and appreciated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We own our choices We use our manners We use appropriate language We keep our hands to ourselves We respect others privacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use positive language Follow classroom expectations and rules We participate in class and share our ideas with others We are caring and considerate of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We ask permission to use our devices or others devices We treat others with respect online We communicate positively online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We share with others We look and listen when talking to our friends We are inclusive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are mindful of others We treat others equally We allow everyone to participate We listen with our whole body 	
 RESILIENCE Our feelings matter: we are all unique with our strengths and challenges: we are inclusive, accept feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We admit and learn from our mistakes We seek and accept help We understand, acknowledge and manage our feelings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We learn with everyone We use positive self-talk We are patient and wait our turn We don't give up/we keep trying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We report cyberbullying and I am cyber smart We ask for help when something doesn't feel right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We manage our feelings, talk to fix problems and seek help when needed We allow others to play and accept others choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We acknowledge we are all different We are brave and try new things 	
 PRIDE The world around us matters: we keep ourselves and others safe, take care of our school and the wider world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We always wear our school uniform We look after our schools' grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We take care of belongings and equipment We keep our learning areas clean and tidy We present our work to the best of our ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We take care of our devices and other equipment We are aware of our digital footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We put rubbish in the bin We pack up equipment We look after our gardens and the chickens We are sun smart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We demonstrate our school values We celebrate our school We acknowledge achievement 	
 EXCELLENCE Our learning matters: We set goals, develop learning behaviours and stay curious.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We come to school everyday and arrive on time We share our thinking and we all have a voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We listen to and follow instructions We are ready for learning We have a growth mindset We set challenging and achievable goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use school devices for learning purposes We follow the rules for online safety We question what we see, hear and do online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We follow rules and expectations in the yard We help others We are upstanders not bystanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow instructions to keep us and others safe We participate in all learning experiences 	

MARC Van

Meredith Primary School is visited on a fortnightly basis by a librarian teacher with the MARC Van. The MARC Van is a mobile library that offers our students the opportunity to borrow books from an extensive range. It also provides a 45 minute library lesson which includes exciting activities and music.

Assembly

Each Friday at 3.00pm the whole school gathers together to celebrate the week. Individual students are presented with weekly achievement awards and parents and friends are invited to attend and join in the celebrations. Our weekly assembly is run by our school leaders and this gives our students the opportunity to practice their leadership and public speaking skills.

Communication

Newsletter

A school newsletter is published each fortnight and is distributed to families via Compass. It is extremely important for parents to read the newsletter as it is the main source of communication between families and the school. The newsletter includes a Principal's report, student achievements and activities, the school calendar as well as some local community news.

Compass

Meredith Primary School uses an app to send out newsletters, messages, student reports and communicate absences. New families will receive instructions on how to download the Compass app to your phone, tablet or computer. If you have any problems, contact the school office for advice.



Facebook

A great way to stay connected with our school is to connect to our Facebook site. Our Facebook site is constantly updated with information to share with our local community. Families may choose to allow photos of their child to be posted or not.



'The only silly question is the one that isn't asked...'

We invite you to contact us with any questions or concerns and hope that you feel welcome to pop into our school office or make a time to chat to our Principal or your child's classroom teacher.

School Council

School Councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The school council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students.

Volunteering

There are many opportunities to contribute to our school. This includes fundraising, garden maintenance and assisting with breakfast club. You may find requests for help are communicated via Compass, Facebook or newsletter. If you would like to volunteer please contact us.

Outside School Hours Care Program

The **Meredith Primary School OSHC Program** is sponsored by the Meredith Primary School Council and offers a quality Before and After School Care program. Some curriculum day and school holiday care is also available. This service operates according to Commonwealth Government Regulations and is approved for Child Care Benefit. With Child Care Benefit (CCB), the fee is extremely affordable. The service offers families in the local Meredith community with a Care program that provides friendly, safe and well-supervised care with stimulating activities for school-aged children. In addition, the service provides healthy snacks and drinks to assist in maximising the education opportunities offered at school. The program enables parents to benefit by having their children in enjoyable, quality care while they meet work or study commitments. For information and enrolment forms, please contact the office.

School Buses

Meredith Primary School is supported by two bus runs. Students can ride the bus if they meet Department of Education (DET) eligibility criteria. For the bus routes and eligibility information please contact the school office.



Conveyance Allowance

A conveyance allowance is payable to families who attend their nearest school and live more than 4.8kms by the most direct route. The allowance is paid each term. For more information, eligibility criteria and application forms, please contact the school office.

Book Club and Book Fair

Throughout the school year, students are offered the opportunity to order books from Scholastic Book Club via distributed flyers. Each purchase earns the school rewards which are used to purchase new books for the school library.

A Scholastic Book Fair is held each year at Meredith Primary School. Books are offered for families to purchase during lunchtime and after school for the week. Once again, the school receives rewards to buy new books.

School Garden & Chickens

Meredith Primary School has a very extensive gardening project which includes a number of large vegetable garden beds. The children spend time cultivating home produce and tending the garden beds throughout the year. The produce is often used in cooking projects in class and in OSHC. Families are asked to assist with watering and looking after our chickens during school holidays.

First Aid

When required, children are attended to by Level 2 trained First Aid staff. If your child sustains a serious injury, you will be contacted immediately by phone. A slip regarding minor health incidents may be sent home with your child. It is a requirement that parents are notified of any significant head bumps that occur at school.

If your child becomes unwell while at school, you will be contacted by phone and asked to collect your child. If we cannot contact you, we will call your emergency contacts. Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell as they will not be able to learn effectively and risk sharing illness with other students and staff.

An ambulance will be called in emergency situations. It is recommended that parents consider ambulance membership as transport to hospital via ambulance is extremely expensive.

Immunisation

As part of enrolling in a Victorian government primary school, or transferring between schools, you need to show your child's immunisation status certificate to the school. Children who are not immunised can still attend school but they will still need to present an immunisation status certificate. The Child History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register may be used, but is only valid if it contains the statement 'this child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age'.

If an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs at the school, children who have not been immunised will be sent home until the danger has passed.

Student Attendance

If your child is absent, you are required to log an absence via Compass or call the school on (03) 5286 1313.

**IT'S NOT OK
TO BE AWAY**

When a student is absent, the parent/guardian is required to provide an explanation for the absence. The Department of Education has an attendance policy and teachers and schools are required to follow up student absences. Please refer to attached school attendance flyer.

For safety reasons, only parents and emergency contacts listed on the student's enrolment form are permitted to sign a student out of the school.

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory. One of our school values is **Pride**. Having **Pride** in our school and our uniform is a big part of this value.

The table below contains a summary of acceptable uniform items and where they can be purchased.

	Colour	Style	Available from MPS Office	Available from other retail outlets
Shirt	Red	Polo with Collar	With logo	Without logo
Jumper	Navy	Polar fleece	With logo	Without logo
Vest	Navy	Polar fleece	With logo	Without logo
Shorts	Navy		With logo	Without logo
Skirt/skort	Navy		No	Without logo
Tracksuit Pants	Navy	Fleece or warm up	With logo	Without logo
Dress	Red & white checked	With a white collar	No	Yes
Kilt	Red & Navy tartan	Pleated/Tartan	Yes	No
Hat	Navy preferred	Broad-brimmed	With logo	Without logo
Beanie	Any	Any	With logo	Yes
School bag	Any	Any	With logo	Yes
<i>Note: Bike shorts, tights and leggings are only to be worn as an undergarment.</i>				

Items can be purchased from the school office. Many items are held in stock, but please be aware that there can be delays of up to a few weeks, should items need to be ordered from our supplier. Uniform must be paid for upon collection.

Many retail outlets offer in-expensive school uniform items (without logos). Second hand uniform is also available from St Joseph's Opportunity Shop in Meredith.

State Schools Relief is an organisation that assist with the provision of uniform items when a family is experiencing hardship. There are many items available, including vouchers for logoed items. Applications can be lodged via the school office.

Grade 6 students have the option to order custom-printed polo shirts and hoodies. Information is provided and orders taken at the end of their grade 5 school year.

Meredith Primary School is a **Sunsmart** School. The wearing of a broad brimmed or bucket hat is compulsory in terms 1 and 4.

If you have any questions about uniform or would like to discuss support options, please contact the school office.

Camps

Meredith Primary School has a very exciting and extensive camp program. We are part of the Moorabool Valley Association and join with Lethbridge, Shelford, and Anakie Primary Schools for our Years 3 to 6 camps program.

Grade 1 Activity Night/Grade 2 Sleepover

(Meredith Students Only)

This introduction to our camp program includes activities and dinner for our Year 1-2 students followed by an overnight stay at school for the Year 2 students.

Grade 3 – Angahook

Location: Airey's Inlet

Duration: 2 nights

Grade - 4 Coastal Forest Lodge

Location: Anglesea

Duration: 2 nights

Grade 5 - Cave Hill Creek

Location: Beaufort

Duration: 2 nights

Grade 6 – Lady Northcote

Location: Glenmore

Duration: 2 nights

Day Excursions

Our students are involved in a number of excursions throughout the year. These are seen to be of enormous benefit to the children, giving them broadened educational experiences that also have a great social benefit. Permission forms giving details of the excursion and travel arrangements are sent home and require your consent to attend.

Payments to school

Government schools no longer charge school fees. Schools receive funding to provide free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum. Parents are encouraged to make Voluntary Contributions to support our programs such as Marc Van, Art/Stem/PE materials, provision of laptops and iPads, classroom resources, student stationery, furniture upgrades, grounds maintenance and more.

Not included are excursions, camps, swimming program, school photos and uniforms which are classed as ***optional extras***. Families are notified of any upcoming expenses and payment plans can be arranged if required.

We provide a range of options to parents to make payments as convenient as possible, including cash, BPAY and EFTPOS facilities. A family statement is issued to families as required and includes a BPAY reference. A secure deposit box is also available in the office foyer for parents to deposit payments and permission forms.

CSEF

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides an annual payment of \$400ⁱ to eligible students to assist with the cost of school camps, excursions and sports. Schools are required to hold these payments in the family's school account to be used for these specific items. Parents choose which items they would like to use CSEF for.

Some common examples of school-organised programs for which the CSEF payment may be used include:

- school camps
- swimming and other school-organised sporting programs
- excursions/incursions

The CSEF payment cannot be used towards voluntary contributions, school uniforms, before/after school care or for siblings. At the end of grade 6 any remaining CSEF funds will be transferred to the Secondary College the student will attend.

Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
 - on the first day of Term two;
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Please contact the school office for more information or to apply.