



Issue 1 2025 – 14 February

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 19 February

Welcome Back: Meet the Teacher & BBQ

Tuesday 25 February

Year 3 – 6 Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 26 February

Kinder – Year 2: Tabloid Sports

Thursday 27 February

Whole School Assembly – 1.35pm

School Hours

8.55am – 2.55pm

Recess: 11.10 – 11.40am

Lunch: 1.05 – 1.35pm

Classrooms open at 8.30am.

For student safety, students are not to be on the school premises before 8.30am.

School Office Hours 8.30am – 3.30pm

From the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to our first school newsletter for 2025. It is a pleasure to welcome you to our school and work in partnership with you this year.



We have had a wonderful start to the new school year. I'd like to thank our educators and staff for preparing our learning spaces and working hard to ensure our school was ready for the start of the new year. All classes have been spending time building a positive classroom culture and getting to know each other in readiness for a year of learning together. Our students are having many conversations about our school rules and values that guide our way of working.

Our school improvement plan clearly outlines the strategic direction of our school for 2025. We have three priority areas: Safeguarding Children and Young People and Attendance, Reading, and Numeracy. Our team will be working together to achieve our targets and key actions for each of the priority areas and I look forward to leading this work with all of you this year.

I'd like to warmly welcome all our families to attend this year's *Welcome Back Meet the Teacher and Community BBQ*. This is a great opportunity for our families to meet each other and talk to our staff. I hope to see many of you there! Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Ashley McPherson
Principal

Welcome Back



More photos from our first days back at school are up on our social media pages.

Welcome Back *Meet the Teacher*

Wednesday 19 February 2025

4:30pm – 5:00pm

Open Classrooms (Prep – Year 6)

Visit your child's classroom and informally meet the teacher

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Community BBQ (Kinder – Year 6)

Join us for a **FREE** BBQ altogether in the outdoor classroom firepit space next to the School Hall

Volunteers: We would like to thank the Parents and Friends Team for supporting this event. If you can help with the BBQ, please contact Ange via email:

angela.yost@decyp.tas.gov.au



Information for Families

We know that there is a lot of information shared with families, especially at the start of a new school year. To support our families, we have developed an information booklet that contains some basic information for families to refer to as

needed. Whether you are a new family to our school or a returning family, we hope that this booklet helps you to feel school ready.

You can download a copy of this booklet from our website:

[https://blackmansbps.schoolzineplus.com/file/media/1185/welcome to blackmans bay primary school 2025 new families .pdf](https://blackmansbps.schoolzineplus.com/file/media/1185/welcome%20to%20blackmans%20bay%20primary%20school%202025%20new%20families.pdf)



Getting Ready



The start of a new year is a busy time for schools. The first few days before students' return is a time of professional learning and setting up of our learning spaces in readiness for the first school day for our students. This year our staff have participated in many professional learning sessions; including a staff induction, spelling workshops, Lifting Literacy workshop and First Aid Training.



We would like to thank all our staff for their time and efforts to prepare our learning spaces for the new school year. We have had a wonderful, calm and settled start to the new year and that is thanks to the careful planning and consideration of our staff to help prepare students for their return.



Allergy Aware School Policy

At Blackmans Bay Primary School, we aim to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all. We currently have several students at our school that have a potentially life-threatening allergy. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is for us to work in partnership with our families to ensure that certain foods or items are kept away from school, but it is important to remember it is never totally possible to eliminate the risk of anaphylaxis altogether.

To protect all students, we kindly ask that families do not send any nut products to school (almond, cashew, pistachio, hazelnut, and peanuts). We would also like to ask that families do not send any food items for sharing to the school. This includes cakes and special items that are often shared for a child's birthday. Instead of these items, your classroom teacher will be finding school-based ways to celebrate your child and recognise their birthday. This might include a special activity or class game and an opportunity to talk about their birthday with the class.

A copy of our Allergy Aware School Policy can be found on our website, but we appreciate your understanding of this and your willingness to ensure we keep all our students safe when they are school.

School Rules and Values

At Blackmans Bay Primary School our behaviours and thinking are guided by the DECYP values and our school rules. As a school we spend a considerable amount of time focused on teaching these to our students so that our expectations are clear and understood.



Our rules are:

- We are respectful
- We are fair
- We are kind
- We are safe
- We are learners

Our new school values are consistent with those of all DECYP sites. They are:



Connection: *building positive relationships and a sense of belonging*



Courage: *accepting challenges and embracing opportunities*



Growth: *aspiring to learn, and improving, even when it's hard*



Respect: *caring for others, each other, and our environment*



Responsibility: *stepping up and doing what's right*

Together We Can



Together We Can is an important part of our whole school approach to improve reading outcomes and it has been developed to support each child with developing the necessary skills to be successful with their reading.

By encouraging regular reading with your child and by asking a few questions about the book, you are encouraging the development of fluency (steady pace), comprehension (understanding) and promoting the importance of becoming a successful reader.

Every child (Prep-Year 6) will be given a *Together We Can* booklet and folder. When your child has read for 20 days (note: you can only record one session per day), then the teacher can prepare a certificate which will be presented in assembly.

We have published a short video on our social media (Facebook and Instagram) that explains *Together We Can* in some more detail.

When a child has read 100 reading sessions, your child will be presented with a 100 certificate in assembly and invited to pick a book prize from the principal's office. Both the certificate and the book prize will be awarded to your child at the next assembly.

If you have any questions about *Together We Can*, please speak to your child's teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Launching Into Learning

Welcome back to our Launching into Learning families. It was wonderful to see so many new faces at our first LiL session for 2025 last week. We offer two Launching into Learning sessions each week for any child to attend with their family from 0-4 years. This provides a wonderful opportunity for:

- Networking between parents / family members
- Socialisation for children
- Fine and gross motor skill activities
- Familiarisation with the school grounds and spaces
- Meeting our wonderful team of educators

To find out more about our Launching into Learning, please contact our school office or find us on Facebook (Blackmans Bay Primary Launching into Learning).



Channel Collective



Blackmans Bay Primary School is proud to be part of the newly formed *Channel Collective*. The Channel Collective is a collection of schools working together to support each other to implement effective pedagogical practices. Last week was the first time our Channel Collective teachers had an

opportunity to come together. We had an incredible day of connection, conversation, learning and discussion. The focus of this session was to start to connect our educators across schools and to build a shared understanding of the DECYP Pedagogical Framework which will be the basis of our work this year.

We are committed to working together to improve outcomes for all children and young people in the Channel. In the photos you can see a photo of the Channel Collective Principal's as well as some photos of our teachers working with educators from across the Channel.

The Channel Collective includes:

- Blackmans Bay Primary School
- Bruny Island District School
- Illawarra Primary School
- Kingston High School
- Kingston Primary School
- Margate Primary School
- Snug Primary School
- Woodbridge District School.



Media Stars

Blackmans Bay Primary School was pleased to support Minister Abetz with the official launch of the latest road safety campaign that reminds Tasmanian motorists to slow down when driving through school zones and



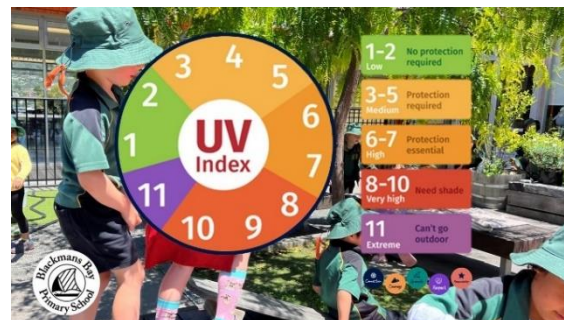
to be focused on the importance of driving safely without getting distracted. The 'Love 40' safety arounds schools' campaign has a new television advertisement and radio alerts that are now being aired.

Ensuring our children and young people arrive safely to school is our number one priority. The importance of reminding our children to cross safely at the road and being road aware is essential for all students and we thank our families in reminding our students of this message.

We would like to thank our wonderful students and their families who volunteered to be part of the film and photos that were used to promote the road safety campaign during the school holiday period.



Sun Safe



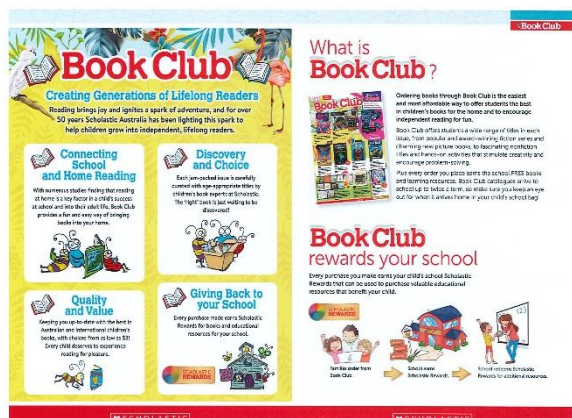
We are pleased to see so many of our students have remembered to return to school with their hats for Term 1. Throughout Term 1 we will continue to see high levels of UV and students are asked to be *Sun Safe* during this time. We are currently seeing UV levels of 9 and 10 which are in the Very High range.

School hats can be purchased from our Uniform Shop via Qkr! Please remember to write your child's name on all uniform items so any lost items are easily identified.

Library News

Welcome back to our lovely school library! Classes will be able to visit the library and borrow books during the second week of term. Your child will have a weekly class visit and your child's teacher will be able to inform you of your child's library day. We love to see your children borrowing and enjoying books. We hope that you are able to enjoy these books with your children. It is expected that students bring a waterproof library bag to protect the books they borrow. School library bags are available from the School Uniform Shop for \$13.

Scholastic Book Club



Scholastic Book Club catalogues are distributed twice a term (8 Issues). There is no pressure from the school for you to purchase from the book club. Of course, your purchases do encourage your children's love of books and reading and the school library receives rewards from which we purchase a range of books, so we are grateful for your support in this way. The preferred payment option is online through LOOP but paper orders can be left at the school office. Visit scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the LOOP app. If using the catalogue order form, please ensure the form is completed correctly and the correct money is included.

SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP

for Parents

Here are eight easy steps for ordering via LOOP:

1

Log in, or create a new account

2

Follow the Wizard to set up the child's profile

3

Click the ORDER tab, select the child's school & class

4

Add the child's first name and last initial

5

Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue

6

Apply any promotional codes that have been earned

7

Make a payment via credit card

8

Await order arrival at the child's school

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

Social and Emotional Learning

During Terms 1 and 2 we are introducing a whole school approach to social and emotional learning. This is foundational to our school improvement plan inquiry question – *'How can we work together to ensure all children and young people are known, safe, well and learning?'* This focus also connects to our Safeguarding commitments and the DECYP strategic plan 2024 – 2030. A focus on developing social and emotional competencies assists students to understand themselves and others, manage their relationships, lives and learning. The DECYP **Social and Emotional Teaching and Learning package** assists teachers to create and maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment. It complements other social emotional learning resources and strategies already in place at Blackmans Bay Primary school. All classes will timetable weekly explicit teaching of social and emotional skills focused on social and emotional wellbeing, connection and belonging.

Canteen Volunteers

If you are able to assist in our canteen this year, please email the school office on blackmans.bay.primary@decyp.tas.gov.au

Introducing Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding Leads are appointed in every DECYP school and CFLC in Tasmania to help ensure children and young people are known, safe, well and learning. At Blackmans Bay Primary School our safeguarding lead is Peta Bentley.

As Safeguarding Lead, Peta Bentley will enhance our efforts in promoting and nurturing a culture of safeguarding at our school. This will enable us to better support the wellbeing of all our students and reinforce the understanding that keeping children and young people safe is everyone's responsibility. By improving our safeguarding culture, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for all.

For further information on Safeguarding in Schools and CFLCs, please visit the [DECYP Keeping children safe through safeguarding webpage](#).

2025 Volunteer Requirements

As we kick off the new school year, we want to remind our school community about the important requirements for volunteering at our school.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, it is mandatory for all volunteers to have their [RWVP \(Registration for Working with Vulnerable People\)](#) and to have completed the [Our Obligations – Safeguarding Training 15-minute video](#) before engaging with children and young people in a volunteer capacity at our school. Certificates for the training video are valid for 12 months from the date of completion. These steps are essential in helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for our children.










To apply for a Registration for Working with Vulnerable people, please visit: [Apply for registration to work with vulnerable people | Service Tasmania](#)

To complete the *Our Obligations – Safeguarding Training* 15-minute video please visit: [Compulsory Safeguarding Training for workers - Department for Education, Children and Young People](#)

Volunteers are a vital part of our school community, and we are excited to collaborate with you in the year ahead!

Communication

We use various methods of communication to ensure our families are well informed. If you are unable to access one of our methods (such as Schoolzine or SeeSaw), please contact our office and we will support you. This will ensure you are always kept up to date with all current information.

Method of Communication:	Purpose:
School phone 	Notification of absence and general contact
School website 	Notification of absence and general information
Email 	Direct communication with a staff member
SeeSaw 	Celebration of learning and classroom information
Schoolzine 	Whole School alerts and information. Parent/Teacher discussion bookings. Notification of absence
Blackmans Bay Primary School Facebook and Instagram  	The Blackmans Bay Primary School social media pages are for celebrating learning and to share our learning with the community.
P and F Facebook 	To inform families about upcoming fundraising and school wide events.
Blackmans Bay Primary Launching Into Learning 	To keep our LiL families informed about our Launching Into Learning program.