

Getting Ready for Prep!



100 days of Prep celebration

Acknowledgement of Country

We at Spring Gully Primary School, would like to acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Custodians of the land that we are on and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge the Djaara people as the first and continuing holders and teachers of knowledge and their continued connection to land and culture. We are grateful to learn, play, and grow, surrounded by the plants, animals & waterways that the Djaara people have watched over and cared for, over thousands of years.

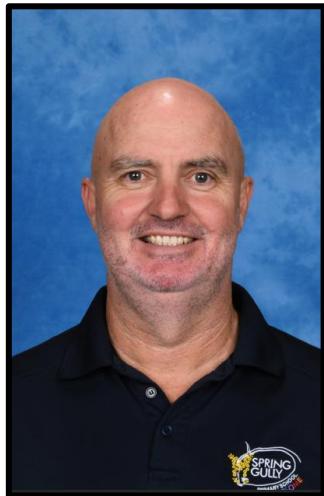
Welcome

Tonight builds on our May Information Evening and is about helping to make your child's transition to school as positive as possible.

Our May presentation is available for access on the school website.



Meet Tonight's Team



Francis Trezise



Brett Parkes



Madie Floyd



Georgia Mortlock



Abbey Dunn



Starting the Transition to School

You are welcome to bring your child to the school on a weekend to help them become familiar with their new surroundings. While you are here you can:

- ▶ Walk around the school
- ▶ Complete the 'Scavenger Hunt'
- ▶ Play on the playground and in our play spaces
- ▶ Use the bubble taps
- ▶ Show your child where the toilets are located
- ▶ Show your child the access points to the school buildings
- ▶ Discuss road safety and where to cross the road
- ▶ Engage in positive conversation about school.



Transition Days

The dates for our upcoming transition sessions include:

- ▶ Tuesday, 18th November – 9.00am-10.00am
- ▶ Tuesday, 25th November – 9.00am-10.00am
- ▶ Tuesday, 2nd December – 9.00am-10.00am
- ▶ Tuesday, 9th December – 9am-11.30am

Your child is welcome to bring a drink bottle with them for all sessions. They will only require a morning tea snack and a hat for the last session on Tuesday 9th December.



Parent Information Sessions

Whilst the first three transition sessions are running, parents are most welcome to gather together in the staff room for a hot drink & light morning tea.

This year we are pleased to offer the chance to listen to our allied health professionals and have any questions answered.

- ▶ Tuesday, 18th November (Transition Session 1):

Leadership available to answer questions

- ▶ Tuesday 25th November (Transition Session 2):

Katie Moss - Social Worker

- ▶ Tuesday 2nd December (Transition Session 3):

Natalie Todeschini – Mental Health Leader

Extra Transition Visits

If your child has trouble with separation, toileting or is a bit anxious about starting school, they are welcome to attend school for an extra transition visit outside of our scheduled program.

It is most likely that their buddy will support this visit. The timing of these will vary, depending on the child.

Please catch one of us if your child would benefit from some extra time at school or if you would like to talk about this possibility.



A Familiar Face

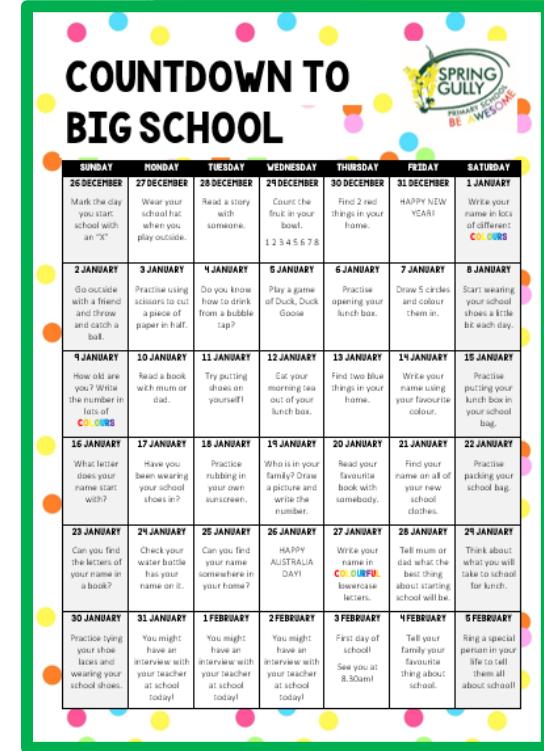
Having a familiar face or playmate can help to make the beginning of school easier.

- Parents are able to make requests regarding friendship placements. These requests are considered but cannot be guaranteed.
- In future year levels, students are asked to provide 5 preferences of children they would like to be placed with. Although we do not guarantee placement with all of the children, we do attempt to accommodate requests.
- Requests can also ask for children to be separated from another child. This is usually to do with siblings or relatives. Requests of this kind are to be made in writing to Francis.



Getting Ready Over the Holidays

- ▶ Encourage your child to become more independent over the holiday period. It is important for them to be able to independently:
 - ▶ Dress themselves
 - ▶ Pack and unpack their own bag
 - ▶ Eat and make good choices about what to eat and when
 - ▶ Go to the toilet by themselves
 - ▶ Open and close lunchboxes/lids.
- ▶ Encourage relationships with new children, arrange play dates.
- ▶ Fine motor skill development (cutting, colouring, pasting, writing name).



School Uniform

Another great opportunity to build excitement about starting school with your child is by purchasing a school uniform in preparation for 2026.

You can purchase the SGPS uniform from our supplier, Noone. Noone is located at 21 Queen St in Bendigo CBD.

Reader bags are also purchased from Noone and are required for the beginning of the Prep year.



School Uniform

Children can wear:

- Official short sleeved SGPS polo shirts (available from Noone only)
- Official SGPS polar fleece jumper – half or full zip (available from Noone only)
- Official SGPS jacket (available from Noone only)
- Black shorts or skorts
- Black track pants or leggings
- Green and white checked dresses
- Black bucket hats with school logo
- Socks – white or black only
- School beanies
- Footwear should be chosen so that a child is appropriately and safely prepared to engage in a range of school activities. Sneakers/runners are recommended. Slip on shoes and volleys are not appropriate. Sandals with enclosed toes are acceptable on hot days.



Booklists

- ▶ Hardcopies of the booklist are available this evening. It has also been sent to you via email
- ▶ Booklists are to be ordered and paid for through Education Plus by Friday 16th January 2026
- ▶ Book packs are available for collection from the S.G.P.S. Art room on Thursday 22nd January 2026 from 8.00am-4.00pm. The Art room is straight ahead as you walk into the school
- ▶ If any booklists are ordered after the 16th of January, they will be delivered to school in the first week of term
- ▶ School fees (voluntary) can be paid on book collection day or in the office as they aren't on Compass as yet.

Belongings

Please clearly name all items of uniform. Other belongings to be named include:

- ▶ School bag
- ▶ Lunch box
- ▶ Fruit snack container
- ▶ Drink bottle
- ▶ Jumper/Jacket
- ▶ Hat.



In the book pack, we have included some information about how to label your child's school books. You will receive this when you collect your booklist pack.

Assessment Interviews

- ▶ Students will attend school for a 1 hour assessment interview with their 2026 classroom teacher. Students need to be accompanied for the first 10 minutes of this interview by a parent or guardian.
- ▶ These will be held on Wednesday 28th of January, Thursday 29th of January and Friday 30th of January. Your child is not required at school unless you are booked in for an assessment on these days.
- ▶ During the first 10 minutes, discussion will focus on student learning, social needs and organisational information. There will be an opportunity for parents to share any extra information during this time. You also will receive any relevant handouts.
- ▶ After the 10 minute interview, students stay with their teacher for another 30-40 minutes. In this time we complete English and Maths assessments.
- ▶ Please bring along the book pack to this interview.



Prep Rest Days

- ▶ Prep children have Wednesdays off for the month of February. Preps are not required at school on the following days:
 - ▶ Wednesday, 4th February
 - ▶ Wednesday, 11th February
 - ▶ Wednesday, 18th February
 - ▶ Wednesday, 25th February



First Wednesday at school –Teddy Bear Picnic

Prep Class Routine

8.30am – Teachers are available

► 8:45am – Literacy block with Fruit Snack

10:45-11:30am – 1st Break with supervised eating time

► 11:30am – Maths block

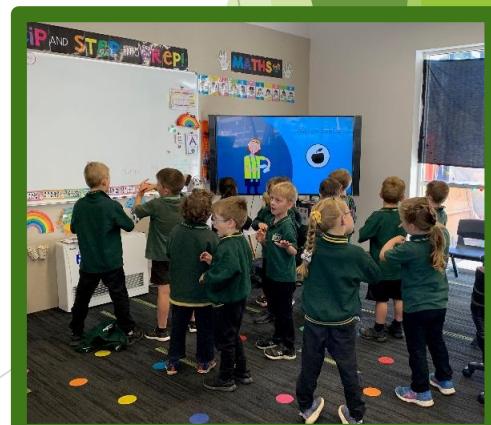
1:30 -2:15pm - 2nd Break

► 2:15pm – Topic/RRRR

3:15pm - End of Day

Specialists:

P.E, Art, Music, and
Auslan



Buddies

- ▶ Each Prep child is matched with a Grade 5 student. We hope every child was excited to recently receive a letter from their buddy.
- ▶ For the first week, we eat our lunch with our Buddies. This helps your child to know what is to be eaten when.
- ▶ Your child's buddy will ensure your child is feeling safe and comfortable in their new school surroundings for the first term.
- ▶ We have regular activities with our Buddies.



First Few Weeks

- ▶ The first few weeks can be tricky for both parents and children. We want to do our best to make everyone happy and comfortable.
- ▶ If you think your child may have trouble separating from you at drop off, there are a few things you can do:
 - ▶ You can give your child's hand to their teacher and head off knowing that they will be okay
 - ▶ We can distract them with a job or activity
 - ▶ We can take them and support them to settle.
- ▶ Please keep in mind that prolonging this separation can be more difficult for your child. Often the longer it takes for you to leave, the longer it takes for your child to settle.
- ▶ After a few weeks it is important that every child begins to get into the routine of a quick, smooth drop off, where the caregiver leaves before the 8:45am bell.
- ▶ Information Session with our Social Worker- Tuesday 25th of November, 9-10am.



Be Positive!

- ▶ Encourage your child's learning.
- ▶ Reinforce Spring Gully's values (Respect, Responsibility and Resilience) and motto, 'Be Awesome!' at home.



- ▶ Establish routines:
 - *At home- When and where will nightly reading take place?
 - *Pick up arrangements- e.g. Meet in the Hub.
- ▶ Read **with** and **to** your child each night.
- ▶ It is not helpful to compare your child to other children in the classroom or older siblings.

Being Organised

- ▶ Establish a consistent routine for drop off and pick up
- ▶ Return reader bag to school each day
- ▶ Write in the Reading Diary each night
- ▶ Read class messages sent on Compass
- ▶ Read the school newsletter, which is sent on Compass each fortnight
- ▶ Support your child to pack their own water bottle, fruit snack and reader bag into their school bag.

Are you ready?

Blue Satchel?



Drink bottle?

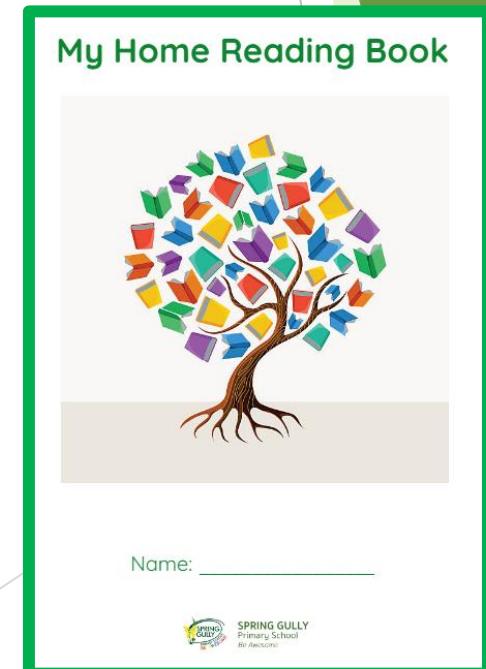
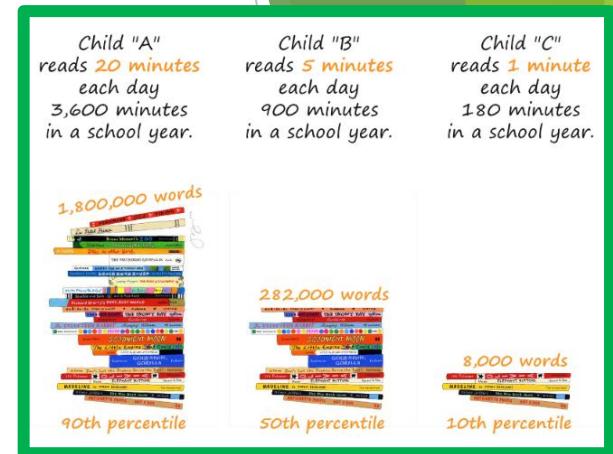


Fruit snack?



Reading at Home

At the beginning of the Foundation Year, children will borrow a library book. Read this book together at home and discuss what happens in the story, the characters and any new and interesting vocabulary. Students will also receive a Reading Log Book at the beginning of the year. Please write the books that you read to your child in this book, eventually you will write the ones they read to you! It is important to establish a routine of reading your library book/a book from home each night and recording this into your child's Reading Log Book.



Reading at Home

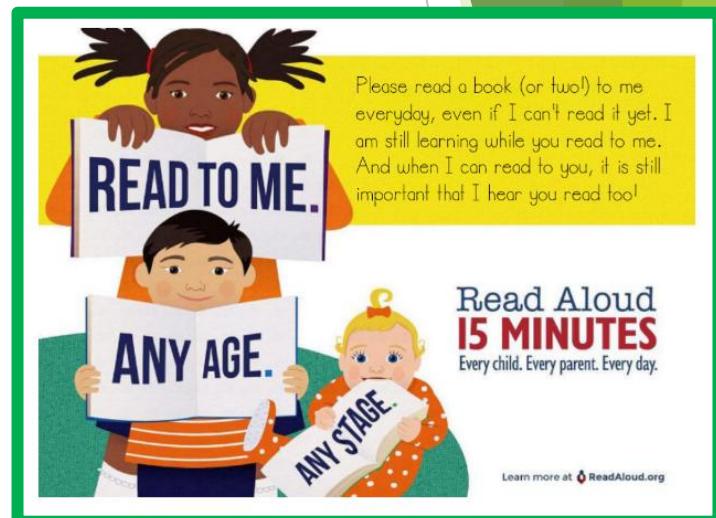
Every time we teach a new sound, we will send a sound card home in their Sound Bag. Once your child can recognise the sound that each letter in a Stage makes and can use this knowledge to decode words they will receive books to take home.

These are our secret to success - our 'no tricks' books. Each story practises the sounds and letters that we have taught, so children will be able to read the books themselves by sounding out and blending.

When your child reads a book to you, you will date that it has been read on the checklist page of the Home Reading Log Book.

Each book needs to be read three times before they are able to receive a new one.

Your child will also have Heart Words to learn. These are commonly occurring words which can not be sounded out such as my, said, etc.



Stage 1	m	s	f	a	p	t	c	i
Stage 2	b	h	n	o	d	g	l	v
Stage 3	y	r	e	qu	z			
Stage 4	j	u	k	x	w			

Parent Involvement

There are lots of opportunities for you to be involved in our school community.

- ▶ Parent Club
- ▶ Easter Hat Parade
- ▶ Book Week Parade
- ▶ Grandparents' Day
- ▶ Footy Colours Day
- ▶ Be Awesome Day
- ▶ Parent Reading.



Awards

- ▶ At Spring Gully, a Principal Award is given fortnightly in rotation of year levels.
- ▶ Children also receive Gugu Awards for significant SWPBS milestones.
- ▶ Specialist teachers award children from across the school fortnightly.
- ▶ These awards are given to acknowledge academic achievement and personal growth.
- ▶ Unfortunately there are not enough weeks in a year for every child to receive a Principal or Specialist Award.
- ▶ Student achievement awards are shared regularly on Compass throughout the week in the 'Chronicle' feature. .



Incursions & Excursions

- ▶ Throughout the year students will participate in a number of internal and external extra-curricular activities.
- ▶ Prep students attend a Major Excursion in Term 3. Each year students travel to the **Ballarat Wildlife Park**, which aligns with our topic 'Animals'. The excursion has an approximate cost of \$60.
- ▶ We also participate in a free excursion to **Ecolinc in Bacchus Marsh** based on our topic of Animals in Term 3. Ecolinc also come to us to provide a free incursion.



Birthday Invitations

- ▶ Birthdays are an important part of childhood
- ▶ To avoid potential issues we ask that invitations be handed out before or after school
- ▶ Teachers will not be able to hand out invitations on a child's behalf
- ▶ Birthday treats are not able to be handed out. If you feel the need to share your child's birthday with their class, stickers are a great alternative to food.



When a Problem Arises

- ▶ SWPBS
- ▶ RRRR Curriculum
- ▶ Restorative conversation
- ▶ Reflection
- ▶ School Social Worker & Mental Health Leader
- ▶ Values Education
- ▶ Circle Time.



Active Travel to School

- ▶ SGPS promotes and encourages active travel to school.
- ▶ Children's bikes and scooters are stored in a secure bike rack that is locked each day.



Compass

In January, an email will be sent to all new families with their Compass login details. It will include a link (if accessing Compass via a web browser), username and temporary password, which you will be prompted to change when you first log-in. You can use Compass on the computer or through the app.

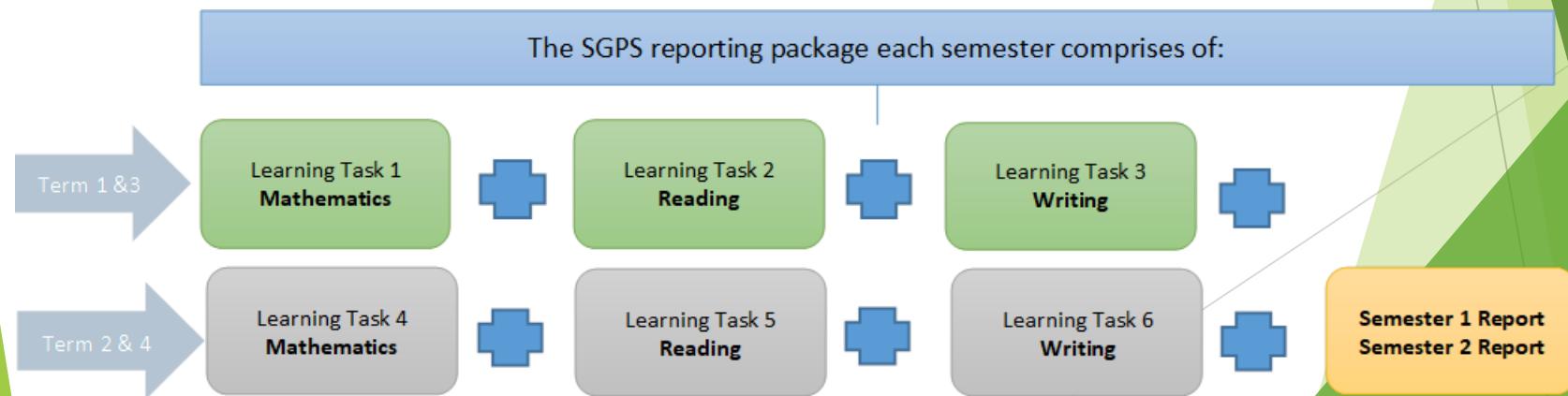
We use Compass for:

- ▶ Fortnightly Newsletter
- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Reports and Learning Tasks
- ▶ Canteen
- ▶ Payment and permission for excursions, incursions and events
- ▶ Sharing photos and academic achievements.



Learning Tasks

- ▶ At SGPS, families receive 'Learning Tasks' every 3-4 weeks on student progress and achievement, based on a range of school wide key assessment tasks
- ▶ Each semester, families will receive 7 Learning Tasks and 1 Semester Report – this makes up the complete reporting package to families.
- ▶ Prep families will receive their first Learning Task in Term 2.



Navigating Compass

The screenshot shows the Compass mobile application interface. At the top, there is a profile picture of a student named Louie with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the profile, a message box displays: "Parent Student Teacher Conference" and "You have open conference cycle(s). Click here for booking". Underneath, there are sections for "2 alerts", "Favourites" (with buttons for Canteen, Conferences, and Events), and "News" (with a message from Sonia LEWIS about 2026 Parent Payment Plans). The bottom navigation bar includes Home, Calendar, Shortcuts, Notifications, and More.

This screenshot shows a similar view to the first one, but with a different student profile at the top. The message box and news section are identical. The bottom navigation bar includes Home, Calendar, Shortcuts, Notifications, and More.

The screenshot shows the "More" screen of the Compass mobile application. At the top, it displays the student's name, Mr Francis TREZISE & Mrs Anita TREZISE, and the school, Spring Gully Primary School. Below this is a grid of 15 icons representing various features: Attendance, Calendar, Canteen, Chronicle, Conferences, Connect, Contributions, Course Confirmation, Events, Family & Enrolments, Insights, Learning Tasks, Photo Ordering, School Documents, School Favourites, Shop, Update My Details, Volunteer, and Wallet. The "More" button is located at the bottom right of the grid. The bottom navigation bar includes Home, Calendar, Shortcuts, Notifications, and More.

Compass



Louie

Parent Student Teacher Conference

You have open conference cycle(s).

[Click here for booking](#)

2 alerts

Show more

Favourites



Canteen



Conferences



Events

News

[View All](#)

[Saved 1](#)

Y ↓



Sonia LEWIS

7 days ago



News



2026 - Parent Payment Plans

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Your child/ren will be given hardcopies this afternoon or tomorrow to bring home.

Otherwise I have attached a file, where you will find the



Home



Calendar



Shortcuts



Notifications



More

Compass



Louie

Parent Student Teacher Conference

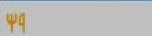
You have open conference cycle(s).

[Click here for booking](#)

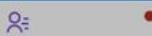
2 alerts

Show more

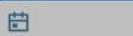
Favourites



Canteen



Conferences



Events

News

[View All](#)

[Saved 1](#)

Y ↓



Sonia LEWIS

7 days ago



News



2026 - Parent Payment Plans

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Your child/ren will be given hardcopies this afternoon or tomorrow to bring home.

Otherwise I have attached a file, where you will find the



Home



Calendar



Close



Notifications



More



To Shannon LEED - LEE

Adele RIORDAN - RIOR

Effie HAMILTON - HAM

Michael SMITH - SMIT

Lauren SCHULZ - SCH

Add recipients

Subject

Insert context



"Re: Louie TREZISE (TRE0012), 34C, Spring Gully Primary School"

Compose email

Send email

Pay for an event

Submit attendance note



Before and After School Care

- ▶ Camp Australia provide Before and After school care at SGPS.
- ▶ Located in the Manya building
- ▶ Monday to Friday
- ▶ Before school:
 - ▶ 7am to 8.45am
- ▶ After school:
 - ▶ 3.15pm to 6pm



Bus Applications

- ▶ Eligible families are encouraged to complete an application form to travel on the school bus in 2026.
- ▶ Current families using this service do not need to reapply, this is only a requirement of new bus travellers.
- ▶ If you live more than 4.8km from our school and Spring Gully is your nearest school, you may qualify. The school bus currently services the Mandurang, Mandurang South and Sedgwick areas.
- ▶ More information can be found at
 - schoolbus.educationapps.vic.gov.au
 - Ph - 1800 800 007
 - schoolbus@education.vic.gov.au

Important Information We Need to Know

Families who have new Prep students coming to school in 2026 and have been identified as having additional needs or require substantial adjustments (e.g. Speech Therapy, Paediatric investigation, neurodivergence, significant medical condition, etc) are encouraged to make time to talk to Brett, this year.

Brett will be able to help those families in understanding the Department of Education's support framework and provide information on how our school can support the transition into Prep, and any additional resourcing that we may have access to. To arrange a meeting with Brett, please call the office to book a time or contact Brett via his email:

brett.parkes@education.vic.gov.au

Important Information for the office

Please ensure that we have all of your child's up to date information such as:

- ▶ Emergency contacts
- ▶ A copy of your child's birth certificate and immunisation certificate
- ▶ Medical Conditions – such as Anaphylaxis, Asthma and others
- ▶ Custody Arrangements & Family Court Orders
- ▶ Does your child have any specific medical, learning or behavioural needs? If so, please email us. The more information that we have, the better we are able to care for your child.

Different Journeys

- ▶ SGPS developed a partnership with Different Journeys earlier this year. Different Journeys is a proactive and robust organisation that is flexible and adapts to needs of our community
- ▶ They create, fund and host safe events for autistic individuals and their families to connect, have fun, and support each other in a meaningful way
- ▶ They actively provide advice and resources to families to build capacity and resilience
- ▶ They raise issues and concerns to those that make decisions that affect the lives of autistic individuals and their families
- ▶ They have "Lived Experience." They support carers side by side.



Bendigo Health School Dental Program

Smile Squad

- ▶ A government initiative are providing free dental care to all Victorian public school students.
- ▶ This service includes free check-ups and treatment, including teeth cleaning, fluoride applications, fillings and any other non-cosmetic treatments needed.



School Nurse- Health checks

- ▶ Prep students in Victoria are eligible for free health, wellbeing and developmental checks at the start of the year
- ▶ Aims to assist in early identification of potential health concerns- such as; hearing, vision, speech, dental and motor skills
- ▶ Advice, information and referrals to other health and support services may be provided by the school nurse
- ▶ Many students have been referred to further support services after a school nurse visit.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

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 the holder of a 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.

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.

How to Apply

- ▶ A form will be emailed to you by the end of the term that you will be able to fill out and apply.

Services to help manage your education expenses:

Centrepay

- ▶ Centrepay is a voluntary bill paying service that is easy to use. You can start, change, or cancel Centrepay deductions at any time, to suit your own personal circumstances. By choosing to use Centrepay you benefit from knowing that your bills are under control. Instead of having large bills, you can pay your bills in manageable amounts from your Centrelink payment, making budgeting easier.
- ▶ To start Centrepay deductions. You can:
 - ▶ start a Centrepay deduction online using your [Centrelink online account](#)
 - ▶ visit your local Centrelink service centre or phone Centrelink.
 - ▶ If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can also speak to Francis Trezise, our principal, about how you can access assistance from the State Schools Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms. Payment plans for camps and excursions can also be set up to support our families.

Dates to Remember

- ▶ Book List Return Date – Friday 16th January, 2026
- ▶ Book List Pick Up Date – Thursday 22nd January 2026 from 8.00am-4.00pm.
- ▶ Prep Assessment Days 2026 – Wednesday 28th of Jan, Thursday 29th of Jan and Friday 30th of Jan. Unless your child has their assessment scheduled for one of these days, they are not required at school.
- ▶ Term One Commences for Prep students – Monday, 2nd of February 2026 (8.45 to 3.15pm)
- ▶ Prep rest days – 4th, 11th and 18th and 25th of February 2026.

Enjoy Spring Gully PS

- ▶ Approach your teacher before or after school if you have any concerns
- ▶ Be positive about your child's learning
- ▶ Get involved in the Spring Gully community and your child's learning

Visit our website: www.sgps.vic.edu.au

Please contact Francis or Georgia if you have any queries or concerns.

francis.trezise@education.vic.gov.au
georgia.mortlock@education.vic.gov.au

