



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4 (subject to change)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 4 Feb	15	16	17 Prep Assessments School Council	18 3-6SWIMMING Dist swim	19 3-6 SWIMMING Dist swim B/U
Week 5 Feb	22	23	24 Div swim Prep Assessments	25	26
Week 6 Mar	1 Kids Roar	2 Golf Lakes	3 Kids Roar Parent Session 6.30- 7.30pm Prep Assessments	4	5
Week 7 Mar	8 Labour Day Public Holiday	9 Parent/ Teacher	10 Conversations	11 Reg swim Parent/ Teacher	12 Conversations
Week 8 Mar	15	16	17 School Council	18	19
Week 9 Mar	22	23	24	25	26
Week 10 Apr	29	30	31	1 Last day of term 1 2.15pm finish	

ONLINE BANKING - Account Name -Toorloo Arm Primary School Council
BSB 063 832 Acc No 1002 2188

Please include details - Surname and description e.g. Fees, uniform, camp etc.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thanks to all the school community for their support of the Statewide Lockdown and the subsequent school closure this week. We were in a unique situation having a pupil free day on Friday and relying on the Skoolbag App and Parents and Friends Facebook Page as our means of communication to our school community. We hope everyone got our communications in a timely manner. We encourage all families to have access to both of these mediums so you can keep up to date with school information. We are greatly appreciative to all staff and our families who adapted to the situation in such a positive and timely manner.

Remote and flexible learning

Teachers had prepared work for collection for these three days of remote and flexible learning. If you haven't collected the prepared work and would like to please visit the school. Children can collect work from their classrooms.

If there is an extension of the lockdown beyond 3 days then our Google Classroom will be reinstated as our means of delivery of the teaching and learning program.

If that is the case students will need to come into school on Thursday to collect logins and instructions for

- Google Classroom – including Google Meet details
- Study ladder – online literacy and numeracy learning
- Wushka – online reading program

We will let families know if this is the case on the Skoolbag App and the P & F Facebook page. In the meantime we encourage families to charge up their devices and check for internet connectivity.

Parent/Teacher Conversations

Included in this week's newsletter is a booking sheet for our first Parent/Teacher Conversations which will take place in week 7. Teachers will be available each day afterschool to meet with parents. Please complete this form and return it to school as soon as possible. A confirmation will be provided by Friday 5th of March.

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COVID safety plan

There are a number of guidelines that the Department of Education communicated to us yesterday. Here is a summary of the ones that are pertinent to families.

Stay home when unwell

The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.

Students with underlying conditions (such as hay fever or asthma)

If a student has persistent symptoms due to an underlying condition such as hay fever or asthma, the student should still be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms.

Parents/carers should also consider getting a medical certificate from the child's treating GP to confirm that it is safe for them to attend school with persistent symptoms that may overlap with some of the symptoms of COVID-19, such as cough or runny nose.

Young children with persistent mild symptoms

Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post-viral symptoms such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness. Any worsening of symptoms will require review and repeat COVID-19 testing, if considered appropriate by the doctor. Students with a negative COVID-19 test whose symptoms have completely resolved do not need a medical certificate to return to the school.

Practise good hygiene

All staff, students and visitors to schools should undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. Staff should direct or supervise young students where required.

Sharing of food is not permitted.

Use non-contact greetings (not shaking hands, hugging or kissing).

Face masks

Children under 12 years of age and students at primary school are not required to wear face masks when at school

Limit school access to outside visitors where possible

Visitors to school premises is limited to essential school services and school operations therefore parents and caregivers are not permitted on site. MASKS are compulsory indoors and outdoors.

Count down to a paperless newsletter.

By the end of February we plan for the newsletter to be paperless so if families would like an emailed copy of the newsletter please contact the office and we will add you to our distribution list.

Otherwise you can view our newsletter on the Skoolbag app or our website www.taps.vic.edu.au each week.

To use the app, simply download 'SkoolBag: School Communication' Then sign up for an account using an email address and password. Select if you are a parent/ teacher/ staff member Confirm your email address once you have done these steps Once confirmed, log in with email and password Go to 'My Schools and Services', add Toorloo Arm Primary School. Detailed instructions are available at the office if required.



We are still awaiting the return of a number of notices including

- Headlice inspection permission
- Local excursion permission
- Sharing of photos permission

Kindest regards
Kerry Hughes

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All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school
- A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members
- A small number of school councils have Nominee members.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

How can you become involved?

You can nominate yourself to become a school councillor or you can nominate someone else. Please collect a nomination form from the office

School council induction video

The school council induction video provides a summary of the purpose and responsibilities of school councils as well as the roles and responsibilities of school councillors. The video can be viewed on the [Department's website at School Councils](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx).

<<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx>>

Call for Nominations

We will have **4 PARENT VACANCIES**, and 2 community member vacancies on school council. Nominations for school council are now open and will close on the 2nd of March at 4.00pm. .

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

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Dear Parents,

ROAR Australia is committed to the prevention of abuse on children through education on Personal Safety. Their programs are based on Protective Behaviours themes:

- 'We all have the right to feel safe at all times' and
- 'We can talk to someone we trust about anything, no matter what it is'



The KidsROAR Personal Safety programs provide tools and strategies that empower children to help reduce their vulnerability to abuse and unsafe situations.

In the KidsROAR Personal Safety Programs students be discussing body safety, not sex education, with the children and the fact that they have the right to feel safe at all times.

The student sessions will cover the following key points:

- Know that we all have the right to feel safe at all times
- Recognise safe and unsafe feelings
- Identify and act upon early warning signs
- Use correct anatomical names for the private parts and understand that these parts of their body belong to them
- Identify and deal with inappropriate or "unsafe" touches
- Know that it is okay to say no to an adult in a situation where they feel unsafe, threatened or frightened
- Identify trusted adults they should "tell" if they are feeling worried or unsafe
- Identify the difference between safe and unsafe secrets and understand that they can talk to a trusted adult about anything
- Persist if they are feeling unsafe by continuing to tell trusted adults until someone listens and they feel safe again

We are very excited about bringing this program to your school and hope you will join us by attending the 1 hour Parent Education Session. The Parent Education Session will provide you with a greater understanding of our programs and how together we can all help the children to develop important skills to help keep them safe.

Student sessions will take place on Monday 1st of March and Tuesday 2nd of March, please speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns

Would like to invite the parents and carers of the Toorloo Arm PS children to a KidsROAR Parent Education session on



**Wednesday 3rd March
6.30pm – 7.30pm
Venue: Toorloo Arm PS**

All of these sessions are subject to COVID restrictions at the time. We will keep you informed of any changes when the time gets closer.

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PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENTS CONVERSATIONS
TUESDAY 9th – FRIDAY 12th March 2021

There will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during Term 1 at the below times.

Please select first/second time preference by **placing a 1 or 2 on the timetable** and return to school by Friday the **26th Feb.** We will do our best to accommodate you and have sibling's conversations as closely together as possible.

A note will be sent home with the confirmed times after we have slotted you in.

Please circle the teacher/s you wish to meet with.

Mrs Alison Mackie / Mrs Barb Plant / Mrs Larissa Murray/ Miss Lizzie Haldane
Miss Amber Castleman/ Miss Eliza Cunningham / Miss Naomi Cock.

PARENT NAME/S:

<p><i>Please circle the preferred method of conversation!</i></p> <p>GOOGLE MEET / PHONE / FACE TO FACE.</p>
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STUDENT'S NAME/S:

Tuesday 9th March

3:30 _____	3:40 _____	3:50 _____
4:00 _____	4:10 _____	4:20 _____
4:30 _____	4:40 _____	

Wednesday 10th March

3:30 _____	3:40 _____	3:50 _____
4:00 _____	4:10 _____	4:20 _____
4:30 _____	4:40 _____	

Thursday 11th March

3:30 _____	3:40 _____	3:50 _____
4:00 _____	4:10 _____	4:20 _____
4:30 _____	4:40 _____	

Friday 12th March

3:30 _____	3:40 _____	3:50 _____
4:00 _____	4:10 _____	4:20 _____
4:30 _____	4:40 _____	

