



# WESTLETTER

38/2025 December 4 2025

ARARAT WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL –

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## DON'T FORGET

**Zooper  
Dooper Days  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
Last 3 weeks of school**



**1 per child per day**

**\$1 each  
Recess both days**

# Foundation Transition Dates



**Friday December 5**

**Whole school Transition day**

**Tuesday December 9**

**Congratulations to the following students  
who received a Positive Behaviour Award  
at Assembly ...**



**L**ucian– Being brave and participating during the indoor swimming program. Lucian was happy to give everything a go. He went under the water to get the hoop, learnt how to float and used his arms to glide through the water. It was lovely to see you having such a great time, Lucian!

**B**ailee– For being an enthusiastic and respectful participant in our indoor swimming program. Bailee consistently demonstrated a positive attitude, followed instructions responsibly, and engaged in all activities with confidence and determination. Well done, Bailee!

**K**elsie– Aspiring to try her best in the indoor swimming program. Kelsie, you showed incredible courage and determination. Putting your head under the water, floating with confidence, and even bravely jumping into the deep end! Amazing, Kelsie we are so proud of you!

Maya– Always trying your very best in all subject areas. You consistently make sure that your work is completed to a high standard, and you always strive to do better by taking on feedback. Keep aspiring to do your best and you will have another outstanding year in Grade 2.

**L**ily– For demonstrating high levels of respect during Canberra Camp. You treated everyone and everywhere we went to with respect. I hope you had a wonderful time at Canberra Camp! Well done, Lily!

Aston– Continuously trying to better yourself. Aston, you have been working so hard to achieve your goals and I am proud of the efforts that you are putting in. Keep on being the superstar you are. Well done, Aston!

Toby– His outstanding effort and commitment to improving his reading. Toby has shown impressive focus during our sessions and has worked hard to increase the number of words he can read per minute. His determination and positive attitude have led to fantastic growth, and he should be very proud of progress. Well done, Toby! Keep up the amazing work!

**B**lake– Aspiring to do your best. It was fantastic to see you showcasing your civics and citizenship knowledge at our recent Canberra camp. During class you asked in-depth questions, added to our discussions and used critical thinking skills to solve problems. Your efforts and focus encouraged those around you to aspire to do the same. We are so proud and keep up the amazing work Blake!

Harper– Harper has become a wonderful leader in our classroom. She is helpful, kind to her peers and sets a great example by completing tasks to a high standard. Harper has achieved excellent results in Grade Four and should be proud.

Zaraha– Has such a positive attitude towards her learning. She always listens carefully, tries her hardest, and produces her best work. She always has a big smile on her face. Well done Zahara!

**J**ordi– For her understanding, dedication and commitment to her learning. Jordi arrives each day with a positive attitude and a genuine desire to do her best. She stays focused on her learning and consistently produces high quality work. Jordi takes her time and puts care into every task that she does. Keep up the amazing work Jordi!

Aaliya– Showing excellent persistence and resilience in maths. Aaliya, you have consistently made progress in learning your number facts each week, getting a little faster and more accurate with each fluency challenge. It has been wonderful to see your confidence grow! Fabulous work!

**D**exter– For going above and beyond to support the school community last week. Dexter, it was fantastic to see you show your amazing leadership skills. You supported Ms Knight with many jobs, helped Tracey with the sausage sizzle, and assisted me with supporting the preps. Your help was not unnoticed and clearly demonstrates your excellent leadership skills. Well done, Dexter and keep up the amazing work!

# Aspiring Respectful Resilient



## Ms Knight Writes

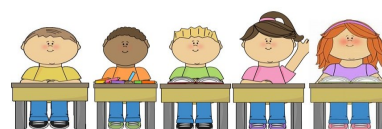
Happy Thursday ☺ I am not sure where that week went, but here we are again!

It is a busy but lovely time at school as the year winds up. Our teachers are sticking with their learning routines and there is still lots of reading, spelling, writing, maths, times tables, and knowledge happening in classes every day. Plus a few Christmas activities sneaking in! ☺ Students thrive on routines. We also know there is a bit of 'learning loss' over the summer break and we try to minimize that by teaching up to that last week. It is a lovely time of the year as we reflect on all the amazing things we have achieved this year, and to see the growth and maturity in students is incredible. Our Year 6's are well and truly ready for Year 7, and it is exciting to see our new Foundation students coming in for transition days. This makes our current Foundation students seem incredibly grown up!



**Attendance:** A huge shoutout to the whole school community for your amazing work on this over 2024 and 2025. We have some students on 100% attendance (Jack and Lila) and some on 99% (students who might have gone home early or missed one day). That is an incredible achievement. Lots of students are away for completely legitimate reasons – having their tonsils out, having the flu, breaking their arm – these are all reasons not to come to school! It is the other days missed that we worry about and they can sneak up on families. Please check your child's attendance and keep that goal of 10 days per year in mind. Of course we have alternative plans for our students who need extra support. Being at school every day is hard for our neurodiverse students. The noise, movement, changes, and social demands are exhausting. We work with families on individual plans for those students. Being at school for four successful days is a much better option for some students than having a fifth really hard day. But for most of our children, we know that school is associated with so many positive life outcomes. Many families have worked hard on attendance and it does take work – early bedtimes, organisation, routines – teachers know that too, as we have to do the same things! You would be surprised to know how early some teachers go to bed – sometimes earlier than students! Thank you for all your hard work on attendance and keep it up. ☺

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS**



Every School Day Counts!

**Outdoor Swimming:** There were some updated regulations released regarding school swimming programs. The ratio of qualified staff at our outdoor program doesn't meet these regulations and unfortunately, we have had to cancel this program for 2025. The updated regulations were created in response to some incidents with school swimming programs. Training more staff as Austswim Teachers is the longer-term plan as we would love to continue to run the outdoor program. All of those families who have paid the \$25 for the program this year will have that credited to their account. For Year 6's, the amount will be credited to siblings accounts, and for those families finishing up at AWPS this year, Tianee will organise a refund. We apologise for this change, but it is very important that swimming (which is classified as a 'high risk' school activity) is run safely, by staff with the correct qualifications, in a way that is fully compliant with department policies.

I'm so  
sorry  
this  
happened



**Zooper Doopers:** We can't quite align the hot days with zooper dooper sales! Just a reminder that these are for sale on Tuesday and Wednesday for the next two weeks, until the end of the year at \$1 each. Students can only purchase one per day.

**Transition:** The state-wide transition day is next Tuesday. Year 6 students going to Ararat College in 2026 should go straight there. Year 6 students going to Marian College in 2026 are very welcome to come to school or have a rest day at home. Our Marian College Year 6's have already had their transition day, and our day on Tuesday is focussed on 2026. Students are very welcome, but a rest day is fine too.

**Reports:** These will be handed out on the last day of the school year. If your child is not at school that day, families can arrange for someone else to collect their child/ren's reports. It is expensive to post reports now, so that is no longer something we offer as an option. If you are unable to collect your child/ren's report then we will hold them at school, and they can be collected at the start of 2026.

**Family Accounts:** Tianee has sent out final accounts for this year via email. PLEASE check your emails addresses and even your junk mail folder to make sure you do not miss yours. Only families owing money have been emailed an account. We know so many of our families are incredibly happy with the programs and opportunities Ararat West Primary School gives to students. These things only happen because the school is able to pay for them, and we need your support in terms of paying your school contributions! Please call Tianee to arrange part or full payment as soon as possible.

**2026:** As you would all know, I was here at AWPS while Mr Keilar was in a department role over 2024 and 2025. So my time at West is coming to an end. I have moved schools quite a bit over my career (2 schools as a teacher then another 4 schools as a Principal – so 6 schools in total) and being here at Ararat West has been a delight. I will write a bit of a proper goodbye in the last newsletter, but I am just reminding everyone that Mr Keilar will be back at his school for the start of 2026. I am busy tidying the office to make sure he has a nice clean space to move back into 😊. I will say a big thankyou in the last newsletter, but it really has been a wonderful 18 months – I have loved my time here!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Ms Knight





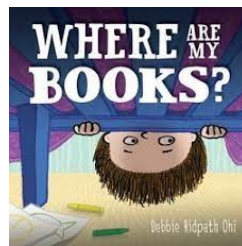
Year 6 students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to

participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognizes the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding to Ararat West Primary School in the amount of \$67.50 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the camp and was deducted from the total camp cost.



# Grade 6 Camp



200 Nights

Amazing

300 Nights



Reading  
Awards





Foundation

Transistion

2026



# GCH CALENDAR COMP



**Wednesdays fortnightly during school terms Scan the QR code for more info**



A little  
**Ray of  
giving**



**ARARAT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
HOUSE INC.**

We're partnering with the  
**Ararat Neighborhood House**  
this Christmas!

**EVERYONE DESERVES TO SMILE THIS CHRISTMAS** 

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We invite everyone to join us by donating unwrapped gifts at our office from the 24th November until the 19th of December.

Here's how you can help:

1. **Donate a gift:** Consider donating a new, unwrapped gift suitable for all ages before December 18. The Ararat Neighborhood House supports people of all ages, any donations are extremely appreciated!
2. **Spread the word:** Share this initiative with friends, family, and colleagues. The more people involved, the greater the impact we can make together.

Let's make this holiday season a little brighter for those facing a tough time. Thank you for considering our appeal, and we look forward to your support in making this charity gift drive a resounding success.

# SKATE INTO SUMMER

12TH - 14TH DECEMBER

ARARAT TOWN HALL

**THE COOLEST WAY TO BEAT THE HEAT!**

ICE SKATING • FOOD TRUCKS • GIVEAWAYS

Book your tickets now at [www.ararattownhall.com.au](http://www.ararattownhall.com.au)



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# Dates for the Diary



Friday Dec 5	Foundation 2026 Transition Day
Tuesday Dec 9	Statewide Transition Day
Tuesday Dec 9	School Council Meeting
Friday Dec 12	Last day for lunch orders for 2025
Wednesday Dec 17	Grade 6 Graduation
Thursday Dec 18	5/6 Big Day Out
Thursday Dec 18	Year 2 Movie day
Thursday Dec 18	3/4 Day out
Friday Dec 19	Last Day of Term 4

## CHANGES TO STUDENT DETAILS

Please notify the office and obtain a 'Changes to Student Details' form for any of the following reasons:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Change of address           | • Change of emergency details/contacts |
| • Change of occupation        | • Medical alert information            |
| • Change of telephone numbers | • Change of email address              |

**These changes are vital to keep your child/ren's details up-to-date in case of an emergency. Please note - changes can also be made on Xuno.**

**Note:-** Please remember that when you come into the school for any reason you must come via the Front Office and sign in at the Ipad. Please also use the Ipad to sign your children out when collecting them early. This is for safety reasons and must be adhered to.  
Thank you.



Ararat West PS is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 1359) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/protect>



## Mission Statement



*Developing in our children an interest in learning and a desire to be their best; utilising their skills and attitudes to enable them to reach their full potential in society.*