



SCHOOL NEWS



5TH DECEMBER 2025

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

2026 Staffing Update

We are delighted to share our confirmed teaching and support teams for 2026.

Our strong focus on high-quality teaching, student wellbeing and consistent school-wide practices has guided our staffing decisions for the year ahead. The teams we have formed reflect the expertise, collaboration and dedication that underpin our work at MVPS.

We look forward to continuing to build on our strategic priorities and providing exceptional learning experiences for every child in 2026.

Learning Specialist and Mental Health and Wellbeing leader: Mrs Laura Crothers

We are excited to have Mrs Laura Crothers as our Learning Specialist at MVPS. Laura leads our coaching and instructional model in literacy and numeracy, supporting teachers to plan engaging and effective learning programs across all year levels. She works closely with classroom teams to share strategies, build teacher confidence, and help students achieve their best.

In addition, Laura is our Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL) as part of the Department of Education's MHIPS program, helping to strengthen school-wide approaches to student mental health and wellbeing.

This initiative provides schools with funding to employ a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL) — a trained classroom teacher who works across the whole school to strengthen our approach to student mental health and wellbeing. The MHWL supports staff to identify and respond to student needs, helps establish clear referral pathways both within the school and to external services, coordinates targeted support for students, and advocates for student voice and agency in their wellbeing.

As part of the statewide rollout, MHWLs receive specialised training developed by the University of Melbourne, ensuring they are equipped with evidence-based knowledge and strategies. Through this program, we expect to see strengthened mental health understanding across our school community, improved support systems for students, and the continued development of effective wellbeing practices in our classrooms.



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Prep Team

Miss Zoe Tuttleby

Year 1 Team

1C- Miss Nikita Coleman, 1V- Mrs Natasha Vais

Year 2 Team

2G- Mr Liam Gava, 2M- Miss Ciara Murphy

Year 3/4 Team

3/4D- Mrs Cara Di Roberto, 3/4M- Miss Chelsea Mofsowitz,
3/4P- Mr Andrew Patterson

Year 5/6 Team

5/6C- Miss Georgia Carlin, 5/6K- Mrs Jenny Kourkouvelis, 5/6P- Mrs Mel Pereira

Specialist Team

Physical Education- Mr Andrew Brown, LOTE (Greek)- Mrs Mariana Surenian,
Art- Mrs Marisa Mowszowski, Performing Arts- Miss Terissa Fidock

Inclusion Team

Stephanie Gatehouse, Kerry Prendergast, Candace Davenport, Emma Boyce,
Justin Sweeney and Giulia Bruno

Literacy Intervention and Library

Mrs Jo Alfano

Administration Team

Merryn Gould, Shino Shibata and Anna Pluchinotta

Welcoming New Staff

Welcome **Miss Ciara Murphy**! Many of you already know Miss Murphy, who has been a familiar and much-loved face at MVPS throughout this year. Ciara has supported every learning team as a CRT, stepping into classrooms with professionalism, warmth and a strong commitment to our students—especially while teachers have taken long service leave.

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome her as an official member of our teaching team in 2026 and know she will continue to make a wonderful contribution to our school community.

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Jenny Kourkouvelis** to MVPS in 2026. Jenny joins us from Armadale Primary School, where she has been a highly respected and experienced teacher known for her strong focus on student engagement, building confident and independent learners, and fostering positive relationships with students and families.

We are excited to have Jenny's expertise and warm, calm presence as part of our senior school team next year.

We are excited to welcome **Miss Chelsea Mofsowitz** to MVPS in 2026. Chelsea joins us as a graduate teacher and brings great enthusiasm, fresh ideas and a strong commitment to creating engaging and supportive learning environments. She has already impressed us with her passion for teaching and her warm, positive approach with students.

We look forward to the wonderful contributions Chelsea will make as part of our Year 3/4 team.

Farewells

As we prepare for 2026, we acknowledge and celebrate several staff members who will be moving on to new chapters. Their contributions have shaped our school, our culture and, most importantly, the learning experience of our students.

Ms Jennifer Pritchard: Jen has been a treasured member of MVPS for an incredible 15 years. During this time, she has contributed to our school in countless ways — through her deep care for students, her commitment to high-quality teaching, and her positive influence on our staff culture. This year, Jen has shown great courage by stepping outside her comfort zone to continue growing as a teacher.

She is moving to Brandon Park Primary School, where she will continue building her practice and professional capacity. We thank Jen for everything she has brought to MVPS and wish her every success in this exciting next step.

Ms Stephanie Pollard: Steph has made a significant impact as our Learning Specialist. Her leadership, expertise and support have strengthened teaching and learning across the school. She has guided teams, built teacher capacity and championed strong instructional practice.

Steph has decided to take 12 months' leave to support her family, and we send her our warmest wishes for the year ahead.

Mrs Christie Smith: Christie has been part of the MVPS team for two and a half years, during which she has brought warmth, dedication and a strong commitment to student learning. She has made a positive impact in her classrooms and contributed greatly to our school community.

Christie will be moving to St Louis de Monfort Primary School in 2026, and we wish her all the very best as she continues her teaching journey.

Mrs Sarette Starfield: Over the past two years, Sarette has been a valued member of our staff, bringing care and consistency to her work with students. She has made the decision to move to a school closer to home so she can better support her family.

We thank her for her contributions to MVPS and wish her well as she moves into this next, more balanced chapter.

Slavka La Torre: This year, we have been fortunate to have Slavka as part of our Inclusion Team. Her calm, supportive approach and strong advocacy for students have made a meaningful difference.

As she moves on from MVPS, we thank her sincerely for the positive impact she has had on our students and staff.

2026 Whole-School Transition Day

Our whole-school transition day will be held on **Tuesday 9th December**.

On this day, students will meet their new teaching team and take part in activities designed to help them build positive relationships, become familiar with their new learning teams, and begin establishing routines and expectations for 2026. Please note that our school follows the [Class Placement Policy](#) when forming classes. While all family requests are carefully considered, not all requests can be accommodated.

Our **'Meet the Teacher' session will be held on Tuesday 16th December**, where students will have the opportunity to meet their teacher for 2026.

Transition days are an important part of preparing students for a smooth start to the new school year, helping them feel confident, connected, and ready to learn. We are looking forward to a positive and engaging day for all students!

Looking Ahead to 2026

We are excited for a positive and inspiring year ahead with our wonderful staff team, both returning and new. To those who are moving on, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your dedication, passion, and commitment have shaped MVPS into the vibrant, caring community it is today. You will always be a valued part of our story, and we wish you every success in your next adventures.

Together, we look forward to another year of learning, growth, and shared achievements.

Curriculum Days 2026 – Save the Dates!

We are pleased to share the Curriculum Days for 2026. Please mark these important dates in your calendar:

- Tuesday 27th January – Statewide Curriculum Day
- Monday 2nd March
- Friday 5th June
- Monday 10th August
- Monday 14th December

Curriculum Days are an essential part of our school year. They allow our staff to engage in professional learning, plan and implement curriculum, develop teaching programs, conduct student assessment and reporting, and complete whole-school planning.

Each of the 2026 dates has been carefully selected to align with our Professional Learning Plan, which is directly linked to our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) and the key actions we aim to achieve across the year.

In particular, Monday 14th December 2026 will be our whole-school planning day, giving teams the time to prepare for the following year. These days ensure our staff can focus on improving teaching and learning, so that every student benefits from high-quality programs throughout the year.

Thank you for noting these dates in your family calendar!

Congratulations to Mrs Laura Crothers

We are thrilled to congratulate Mrs Laura Crothers on successfully completing the Teaching Excellence Program. This 10-month professional learning program supports skilled teachers to connect with passionate, like-minded colleagues and further develop their expertise to deliver outstanding outcomes for students.

Laura, you have shown dedication to improving your practice, and we are so proud of you.

Your commitment to professional growth will directly benefit the students and staff at MVPS, and we are delighted to celebrate this achievement with you.

 **Victorian Academy of Teaching...** 15m ·  
Teachers: true superstars, and that's not just our opinion!... [See more](#)



Important End-of-Year & 2026 Reminders

School Reports

School reports for 2025 will be available on Compass from **Tuesday 16th December**. Please take the time to read these with your child and celebrate their learning achievements.

End of Year Concert

Our End of Year Concert will be held on **Friday 12th December, 1:30–3:30 pm, on the Astroturf**. Each class will perform, and we will proudly announce our Student Leadership Team for 2026.

Families are warmly invited to join us for this celebration of our students' talents and achievements.

School Holiday Program & School Grounds

The school holiday program will operate during the upcoming school break. Please note that school grounds cannot be accessed during school days while the program is running.

Families are reminded to ensure children are supervised at all times.

Any incidents or inappropriate behaviour should be reported to the school via email.

Contacting the School Over the Holidays

If families have questions over the holidays, please email the school.

Please note that the school email will be checked sporadically throughout January.

Commencement Date for Students 2026

Year 1 - Year 6 students will commence the 2026 school year on **Wednesday 28th January** and our Prep students will commence on **Thursday 29th January**.

Please ensure this date is noted in your family calendar.

Amy Tinetti
Principal

Performing Arts

We have been having lots of fun in Performing Arts this term and the Year 3-6s all made their own shakers inspired by Indigenous Rain Sticks. We used paper towels, rice, contact and rubber bands to make our creations extra beautiful.

We then practiced shaking along to the beat with a variety of different songs.

- I enjoyed decorating the shaker because there were so many different options and colours. *Grace*



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Greek

All senior students have been getting ready for the End of Year Concert by learning 'Triyona Kalanta' (Greek Jingle Bells). Year 5/6 students have been creating Greek texts in the form of comics. From fast food, to nature, to animals, I've been impressed with their creative, clever, and often funny ideas. Bravo! Year 3/4 students have been role-playing shopping at the market.

After a little revision and celebration of a wonderful semester, students will be creating a short Greek picture book that we are hoping to share with the Preps.



Willem

- I've improved my pronunciation of Greek words. *Lailah*
- I'm proud that I've been getting better at using my knowledge of letter sounds to sound words out. *Audrey*
- I'm proud of being able to sing using Greek words and understanding Greek words. *Poppy*
- Greek Myths and Legends was fun and interesting. *Adam*

Visual Arts

Year 3/4 students have been learning how to weave using a paper plate as their looms. They started by painting their plate with symmetrical designs before stringing the warp threads to prepare the loom for weaving. They're now well into the weaving part of the artwork and are finding that while it can be tricky and tangly, it's also very rewarding!

- I learned that weaving is easy, and it's fun to do. *Emily M*
- It was challenging to learn how to weave the string but I was able to do it in the end. *Harry*

Inspired by the work of artist John Wolseley, Year 5/6 students made their own mark-making tools using natural materials found around the school and used them to paint an abstract background for an artwork. After practising using shapes to help them sketch a bird, they used oil pastels to draw a magpie onto their backgrounds.

The results are magnificent – have a look at the display board outside Mr Zeneli's office to see a few examples.

- I learned how to blend the oil pastels. I learned what the shapes of the birds are and how to use them. *Micah*
- I enjoyed the part where I got to make my brush and I got to do the cool mark-making. *Olivia*



Physical Education

This term, students in Years 3–6 have been learning volleyball. They began by practising key skills such as digging, setting, and spiking, before progressing to small group games with their classmates.

- I enjoyed playing matches against my classmates. *Avi*
- I loved blocking other students spikes to win points. *Raph*
- I liked setting up points for my teammates and blocking others shots. *Micah*
- I liked digging the ball when it first came over the net. *Aathy*



STUDENTS OF THE FORTNIGHT

PREP T	Evan G		RESPECT
1/2 A	Kenil & Henry		
1/2 C	Archie		RESILIENCE
1/2 V	Lachie W & Kenzie-Rose		
1/2 S	Noah & Dhruvit		CONFIDENCE
5/6 C	Liam		
5/6 J	Willem & Ed		COOPERATION
5/6 P	Anouska		



Bookings Now Open!

Bookings at Malvern Valley Primary School TheirCare are now open for families to access.

Registration and bookings are completed online at theircare.com.au and usually takes approx. 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

Want to know more about TheirCare? Scan the code on your mobile to watch our introduction video!



FAQs can be located on our website: <https://theircare.com.au/how-to-register/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/12 School-wide Transition Day
- 10/12 Year 6 Graduation
- 11/12 Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival
- 12/12 End of Year Concert & Final Assembly
- 16/12 Meet the Teacher Day
- 19/12 Last day of 2025
School finishes at 1:30pm



WELCOME TO SPARTAN SCHOOL WORLD
The Malvern Valley Primary School range is now available via the following options:

Instore:
Spartan School World
Mount Waverley store

Online:
www.spartanschoolworld.com.au
Select Malvern Valley Primary School from the "FIND MY SCHOOL" list of schools.
Choose free weekly delivery to school or home/private address.

Click and Collect:
Order online and collect instore.

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Monday to Friday
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First Saturday of the month:
9.00am - 12.00pm

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MALVERN VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Available Online and Instore
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Last School delivery: Term 4 Week 10
First School delivery: Term 1 Week 1

Store closed from Tuesday 23/12/2025
until Wednesday 7/1/2026



PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

END OF YEAR RAFFLE

The Parents Association are now selling tickets for their End of Year Raffle. Purchase now for \$5/ticket or \$20 for 5
<https://events.humanitix.com/mvpsraffle>

We have some fabulous prizes already on offer, but if you can make donations to help us pull together some more hampers we'd really appreciate it.

Please leave any non-perishable, brand new items such as wine, beer, games, toys, photo frames, books, electronics etc at the office.

Please leave your donations by Friday 12th December.
Raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 16th December.

Good Luck!



SECONDHAND UNIFORM



Does your child have uniform items that no longer fit?

Our Parents Association provide families an opportunity to purchase second-hand uniforms through our Second Hand Uniform Stall (SHUS) located in the Sherwood Centre foyer. Most items are \$5-\$10, and all monies are collected by the PA to put towards the school.

If you would like to donate your old uniform items as the year closes please ensure they have been washed and drop off them off in the blue donation bins provided, or bring them to the office before or after school.

A reminder the SHUS operates on a self-serve honesty system. If you see an item you wish to purchase please help yourself and take it to the office for payment.

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY



MalvernValley PS TheirCare

TERM 4

NEWSLETTER December 2025

Happy December!

Lastweek wewrapped upour Soccer and Cooking TC Titans Programs. Our last soccer session involved some quick warm up drills with the main focus being on team games. On Thursday we made empanadas using a potato, cheese and corn filling. These were a big success and enjoyed by many children and families. For the remaining 2 weeks, we will be busy rehearsing for the end of year concert and engaging in Christmas crafts.



The students have also been requesting an end of year party, and so we have come up with a system to work towards this goal. They have been tasked with working together to earn group meeting stickers, which means displaying positive behaviours like respect, active listening, and turn taking during our daily sit downs. (If all goes well) The end of year party will be held on **Wednesday the 17th of December.**

The children have started making a list of foods and activities they would like for this special day! No additional fees, just book your child in to be a part of the fun and celebrate the end of the school year.

Special dates for the holidays



Who can believe it is the end of the school year already?! We can't! Keep an eye on your inbox for all of our open and closed dates, Holiday Program timetables, and our return to care for the new school year in 2026!



From everyone at TheirCare, we thank you for a wonderful year and we wish you and your family a safe and happy holidays!



CONTACT SERVICE:

0475 144 393

malvernvalley@theircare.com.au

TC HEAD OFFICE:

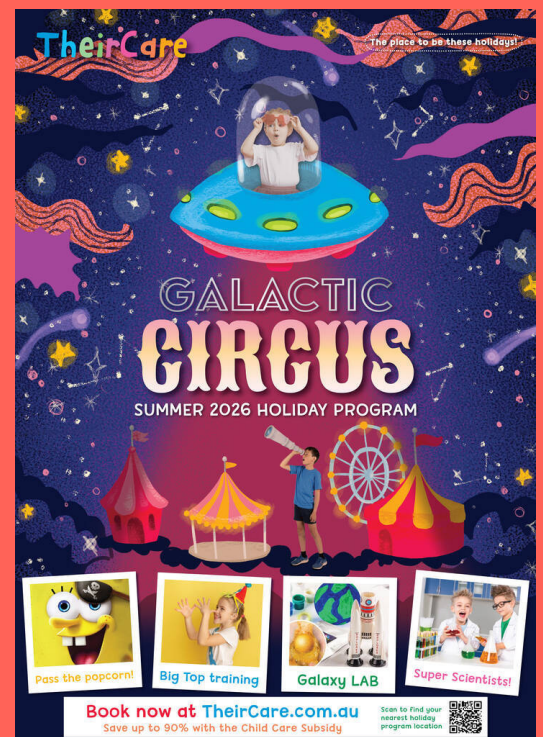
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Persevere with Resilience
Connect with Empathy

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

Do you want your child to develop confidence, leadership and communication skills that will help them flourish?

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Interpersonal Skills:** Build leadership skills and develop communication skills
- Vocal Confidence:** Develop vocal projection and gain a strong voice
- Presentation Skills:** Overcome shyness and master the skills of effective presentations
- Empathy & Social Skills:** Connect and communicate through empathy



Program Structure:
Small Group Sessions: Maximum 5 students per class
Weekly 45-Minute Classes: Held at convenient times
Personalized Coaching: Tailored to each child's needs and pace

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AUDITION for the Australian Youth Choir 2026.

Enrolments for 2026 are now open to boys and girls from 8 years of age.

An opportunity to develop:

- singing
- musicianship; choral repertoire
- confidence
- self-esteem
- new friendships




Weekly rehearsals in Canterbury during school Term with performance opportunities during the year.

AUDITION NOW FOR 2026

Appointments are available by contacting

EMAIL: office2@niypaa.com.au

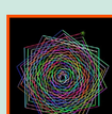
Boys and Girls singing together since 1975
Est. 1975, the Australian Youth Choir is a division of National Institute of Youth Performing Arts Australia (NIYPAA) ABN 28 007 124 629



CODING PROGRAM

MALVERN VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Time to code.
Think Creatively.
Solve Problems.


TERM 1 2026 - 8 weeks

Years: 3 to 6
Day: Mondays
Time: 3:40pm - 4:40pm
Fees: \$320 (incl. GST)

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4th EAST MALVERN JUNIOR Girl Guides

Monday Nights - 6.30-8pm

51 Ivanhoe Grove, Malvern East

Girl Guides is a fun, welcoming group for girls aged 7-12 who want to learn new skills, make friends, and try exciting adventures. Each week we explore activities like crafts, outdoor challenges, community projects, games, and more, all designed to build confidence, leadership, and teamwork.

Our Girl Guides unit is currently accepting new members, if your daughter is interested in giving Guides a go, scan the QR code below for further information, or to sign up for a trial.



WWW.GUIDESVIC.ORG.AU

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

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Week 1 Dec: 15th - 19th
Week 2 Jan: 5th - 9th
Week 3 Jan: 12th - 16th
Week 4 Jan: 19th - 23rd
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Visit: futurestennis.com.au

East Malvern Tennis Club



Ages 5-13

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