



2026 Information Booklet



Lethbridge Primary School
2 Stephenson St Lethbridge VIC 3332



5281 7214

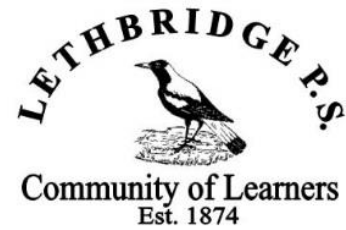


lethbridge.ps@education.vic.gov.au



www.lethbridgeps.vic.edu.au

Respect - Care - Collaboration - Resilience



At Lethbridge Primary School we are committed to providing an outstanding educational experience that caters for the wide range of needs and interests that exists within every student group.

We value your support and encourage your family to play a key role in the ongoing development of your child during the primary school years. Working in partnership with families, we provide a caring environment within which students acquire the skills and attributes that equip them to be capable, caring and creative future citizens.

The positive transition of children from home and kindergarten to school is a high priority for us. Transitions for all children are potentially periods of uncertainty for individuals and families and therefore provide an opportunity for school and home to work together to ease any concerns for the new / beginning student. If you have any concerns about your child's transition, please speak with me to ensure we can tailor their experience to meet their needs.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the learning and development of their children through becoming involved in the life of the school.

You can become involved in the school by:

- Attending school assemblies
- Participating in special days, events and celebrations including sporting days
- Becoming involved in school council or school council initiatives
- Reading the school newsletter and noting dates and requests
- Attending parent-student-teacher conferences and individual student support group meetings
- Working collaboratively with teachers to support the learning of your child
- Participating in our regular whole school community activities
- Assisting teachers with initiatives such as the annual Book Fair

We trust that your association with the school will be happy and rewarding. If you would like to talk about your child's transition into school, specific learning or social needs, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,
Chelsey Marks
Principal

Welcome to Our School

Principal	Chelsey Marks
Business Manager	Meagan Whiting
School Address	2 Stephenson Street, Lethbridge, 3332
Telephone	03 5281 7214
Email	lethbridge.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Web	www.lethbridgeps.vic.edu.au

Vision

As a community of learners, we respect and value the differences that make us unique. We are committed to genuine and sustained collaboration and learning that has the wellbeing and development of our children at the centre of all that we do.

As a new or prospective family to the school we welcome you. Our school is a busy place for learning. We offer a supportive family atmosphere where students participate eagerly in our many learning and social activities. The school environment is safe and caring, and this enables learning to flourish. We promote a healthy, safe and respectful school community through our statement of values.

Our school's values are:

Care – caring for self, others and the environment

Respect – respecting, valuing and embracing difference

Collaboration – community collaboration and lifelong cooperative learning

Resilience – perseverance and resilience

The school offers a comprehensive curriculum program in all the key learning areas. Our key curriculum focus is aimed at developing competence and confidence in Literacy and Numeracy. We are also committed to a learning approach that values and recognises excellence and high standards and which is responsive and accountable to parents and the local community.

School Voluntary Curriculum Contributions

This contribution has previously been set at \$200 – which comprises all essential education items required for the year, including the book list. Curriculum Contribution for 2026 will be shared with families once confirmed.

This charge does not cover additional items such as camps, non-cultural excursions & sporting activities.

Term Dates 2026

The below term dates are set by the Department of Education. The Department of Education provides all schools with 4 student free days per year to work on professional training, curriculum design, assessment and other school-based needs.

Student Free Day dates will be shared with families once confirmed.

Term 1
28th January: Term 1 begins 2nd April: Last day of Term 1 – Early dismissal at 2.30pm <i>* Foundation students do not attend Wednesdays during January and February; these are known as rest days.</i>
Term 2
20th April: First day of Term 2 26th June: Last day of Term 2 – Early dismissal at 2:30pm
Term 3
13th July: First day of Term 3 18th September: Last day of Term 3 – Early dismissal at 2:30pm
Term 4
5th October: First day of Term 4 18th December: Last day of Term 4 - Early dismissal (Time TBC)

School Times

The first bell rings at 9am and students should be lined up outside their classroom by this time. Please note, supervision of students in the yard commences at 8:45am and students should not arrive before this time unless they are participating in Before School Care with CommunityOSH.

Students are dismissed from their classrooms at 3:20pm. Supervision is provided until 3.30pm to assist with the collection of children at the end of the day.

9:00am - 11:00am	Two-hour learning block (fruit/brain food at 10am)
11:00am - 11:30am	Morning tea inside followed by recess play
11:30am - 1:30pm	Two-hour learning block (fruit/brain food at 12.30pm)
1:30pm - 2:20pm	Supervised lunch inside and play/break outside
2:20pm - 3:20pm	One hour learning block

Teachers walk students to the front gates at the end of the day to meet parents. They are available at this time for you to have an informal conversation about your child.

Foundation Transition Program 2026

Transition dates for students commencing Foundation in 2026 are as follows:

- Thursday 30th October 2025 9:15am – 10:45am
- Thursday 6th November 2025 9:15am – 10:45am
- Thursday 13th November 2025 9:15am – 11:45am
- Thursday 20th November 2025 9:15am – 11:45am
- Tuesday 9th December 2025 9:15am – 10:45am

For Transition sessions, families are asked to provide a prepared, individual portion of fresh fruit or vegetables for your child on each of these days. A bottle of water and sun hat should also be sent along. Please provide an additional snack for the transition days on November 13 and 20.

“Brain Food” is a regular part of the two-hour teaching blocks all year and is part of our whole school approach to our Happy, Healthy and Learning focus in term one each year. It is also very popular with children and families as it promotes healthy eating at regular intervals throughout the day.

The children will participate in our whole school transition session on Tuesday 9th December. During this session, we aim to have confirmed new classes and staffing for the following year and as a result, we hope to have students work in their 2026 classes with their new teachers. This is an opportunity to begin building relationships with other staff and students.

At the beginning of the new school year, each class will participate in the “Launch into Lethbridge” Program, packed with learning activities that will develop shared understandings about school and classroom routines and expectations. The focus in the first weeks of the year will be on a smooth transition to the new class and new school year, where students learn how to be successful in the classroom and yard.

School Strategic Plan

Like all Victorian State Schools, we work to a Strategic Plan which details our priorities and goals over a 4-year period. A current copy of this can be found on our website.

Curriculum

The school offers a comprehensive curriculum program in all the key learning areas. Our key curriculum focus is aimed at developing competence and confidence in Literacy and Numeracy.

We are also committed to a learning approach that values and recognises excellence and high standards and which is responsive and accountable to parents and the local community.

We have designated teachers for the teaching of:

- LOTE (Auslan)
- Physical Education & Health
- The Arts
- Science (STEM)



Children are given the opportunity to compete in a range of sporting activities at school and inter-school levels. Excursions, camps and a swimming program are all used to enhance the core curriculum.

Accurate communication of student progress occurs through detailed written reports based on records of student performance and student led conferences.

Communication

Compass is the platform for school communication. This includes newsletters, calendar events, reminders, semester reports and other important items for communication. Families can also use the app to contact the school, provide feedback and enter absences. Compass is available for free download to all devices; Apple and Android.



Families new to Lethbridge Primary School will receive further information and registration details for Compass at the beginning of their child's enrolment.

Learning Technology

At Lethbridge P.S. we use technology to support classroom teaching and learning. This is enhanced by all year 3-6 students currently having access to a Chromebook (laptop computer). Children in years P-2 have access to a bank of shared, school-owned iPads.

Students at Lethbridge Primary School only use technology as a tool, when it is the best method for completing a task or activity. We do not believe in students working on devices for entire days and ensure a variety of working styles are utilised each day.

Attendance

Regular attendance is vital for any child to progress at an acceptable rate. Please try to keep absences to a minimum. If your child has been absent from school, please ensure notification is made via Compass or please phone the office explaining the absence.

Late arrival – students arriving after 9am should report to the office first, their teacher will then mark them on the roll as a late arrival. Parents will be contacted by the classroom teacher or principal if lateness is becoming a problem.

Early departure – if you wish to collect your child from school before dismissal time, they must be signed out at the office. This ensures all students can be accounted for in the case of an emergency.

Reporting to Parents

Parents are free to visit the school at any time to discuss problems that may arise. Please ring the school to organise a time. Electronic copies of reports are available via Compass mid-year and at the end of the year.

More formal Student Led Conferences are arranged for parents and students in Term 1 and Term 3. These are opportunities to discuss your child's academic and social progress.

School Excursions

Excursions extend and complement the students' learning experiences. A consent form is signed at the start of the year allowing children to participate in local excursions, such as walking to the local oval or park. Forms will be sent out, or information will be published on our school portal prior to any excursion that requires transportation or a payment.

Camps

The school participates in a combined program with Meredith, Anakie and Shelford Primary Schools. This promotes social interaction for students with children from other schools and allows us to access amazing experiences, using the economy of scale.

Generally, our camping program has included students in Years 3 to 6.

Year 6	Lady Northcote - Leadership
Year 5	Cave Hill Creek - Bush
Year 4	Coastal Forest Lodge - Beach
Year 3	Camp Angahook – Bush

School Incursions

Visiting artists, performers, and sports organisations are a feature of the events calendar at Lethbridge Primary School. These events provide a wonderful opportunity for the student community to experience the thrills of live performances and to try out a wide range of sports in the convenience of their school setting.

SunSmart

Lethbridge Primary School has a “no hat, no play” policy from 1st September to 30th April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

During this time, students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Swimming

Swimming lessons are generally conducted during Term 3 or Term 4. Our swimming program is provided by accredited swimming instructors.

School Lunches

Lunch orders are available each Friday, and are filled by the Lethbridge General Store. Orders must be placed by 12pm on Thursday, for delivery to school on Friday. Orders can be placed via the school office (cash only) or directly with the shop. The shop cannot accept orders after these times and thank you for your understanding.

Only items on the approved ‘Canteen List’ can be purchased for school lunch orders.

From 1:30 pm to 1:40 pm all children remain in a supervised eating area to eat their lunch. This is to ensure your child’s lunch is eaten at the appropriate time and to ensure litter is disposed of responsibly.



Parent Bodies

School Council

This is an elected representative committee of parents and staff. It currently consists of 14 members.

In consultation with the Principal and Staff, Council supervises the spending of all grant monies, is responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the school and the school's continuing development.

Parents & Friends

This group conducts various fundraising activities during the year.

Our Parents & Friends meet monthly, and parents are advised of meeting dates and times through the newsletter. All parents, who have children attending the school, are able to join our Parents & Friends.

It is our desire that meetings be forums for educational planning and discussion, as well as to organise fundraising. Parents and friends are always invited to stay behind afterwards for a cup of tea.

Emergency Contact

Please keep the school informed of any changes to your home situation - job, address or phone number changes, emergency contacts, medical needs, etc.

Newsletters

School newsletters are sent out once a fortnight via Compass. They are also available on the school's website. Our newsletter contains all sorts of information pertaining to the children and school in general.

Asthma/Allergy/Anaphylaxis Register

We are required to maintain a register of all students with asthma, anaphylaxis or an allergy. The register indicates the type of medication, the dosage and the frequency of dosage. We also require the appropriate medication to be kept at school.

Medication

Some students need to take prescribed medication during school hours. We require parents to complete a form outlining dosage, frequency, etc. Medications are kept in the sick bay.

We provide supervised administration, and a log is kept.

School Policies

School Policies are published on our website. We encourage families to utilise this resource to understand the structures, expectations and practices of our school. Policies are updated according to the Department of Education timeline and regularly discussed with staff and School Council. Paper copies of the policies are available from the school office on request.

Student Voice, Agency and Leadership

Student voice enables students to influence change through collaboration with adults about what and how they learn, and how their learning is assessed, building their resilience as they negotiate. Student agency refers to the level of autonomy that a student experiences in their learning environment. Student leadership includes listening to and clarifying issues and demonstrating care by advocating for other students or themselves. Student leaders have an increased sense of responsibility to help others and to model leadership principles and values.

At Lethbridge Primary School we acknowledge that student voice and agency is a powerful motivation in learning. We strongly believe that students having an authentic voice is important and encourage them to share their unique perspectives on learning, teaching and the school community. Student voice allows individuals to actively shape their own educational journey, by sharing their views, concerns, ideas, and influence change.

Through Year 6 leadership positions, Student Representative Council membership, opportunities to give and receive feedback, choices about what they learn, and participation in individual learning goal development and monitoring, students are able to access authentic opportunities to develop voice, agency and leadership.

In 2025, our Student Leadership comprises of:

- School Captains
- School Vice Captains
- House Captains
- Specialist Captains
- Student Representative Council.



Instrumental Music

Instrumental music sessions at Lethbridge Primary School are provided by At-School Music. At-School Music is a duo of music tutors teaching band-style instruments on-site at various primary schools in the Geelong and outer region. Pat Wheeler visits Lethbridge Primary School each week to conduct 1:1 instrumental music sessions.

Key information:

- Piano, drums and beginner guitar will be available
- Instruments are provided for each session at school, however families may like to purchase their own instrument to support practice at home
- All sessions are 1:1
- Each session is 30 minutes
- Where available, the schedule will differ each week to limit students missing part of the same lesson with their classroom teacher
- Sessions follow the school term
- \$35 per session, charged by the term.

To register and make a booking:

- Bookings and payments are managed directly by At School Music.
- Go to atschoolmusic.au and complete the enquiry form at the bottom of the page.
- Staff at At-School Music will contact families directly using information provided by parents in the website enquiry submitted.



Out of School Hours Care



School Council is pleased to be able to offer Before and After School Hours Care to our families by working in partnership with CommunityOSH.

Before School Care: 7:00am – 9:00am

After School Care: 3:20pm - 6:20pm

Families are encouraged to register with CommunityOSH, even if you do not generally need to use it, just in case the need ever arises. You can contact CommunityOSH by logging onto their website at www.commosh.edu.au or call their Customer Service Team on 99773000, or 0413544966 (9.00am-6.00pm).

School Uniform

School Uniform is compulsory at Lethbridge P.S. Students and families alike find this option convenient and economical. Plain maroon or black items can be used along with the logo items. Uniforms can be purchased over the counter at PSW, 164 Malop Street, Geelong (near Officeworks).

- School Bags, Book Satchels, hats and iron-on transfers of the school logo are available for purchase from the School's office.
- Tracksuit pants, polo shirts, jumpers, dresses, pinafores (with detachable bib/kilt) and hats are available from PSW.
- Students should wear comfortable school shoes, appropriate for exercise as the school has an extensive sporting program. Sneakers are appropriate footwear. Primarily black in colour is preferred.
- Children are encouraged to have an art smock for use during Specialist Art and at other times when the teacher feels that it would be appropriate. These can be a modified oversized shirt or a purpose made smock.