



Issue 1, 2026 – 11th February

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 17th February

Meet the Families Session from 2:30pm

Thursday 19th February

ECE Athletics Carnival

Friday 20th February

Year 3 – 6 Athletics Carnival

Tuesday 24th February

Year 6 Leadership Day

Thursday 26th February

Walk to School Day

Friday 27th February

Clean up Australia Day

Monday 9th March

Public Holiday

Tuesday 10th March

Assembly 6E Hosting, 3/4LV, 1S, 2S, Music presenting

Thursday 19th March

School photos

Friday 20th March

Ride to School Day

Thursday 19th March

School photos

Tuesday 24th March

Family Engagement in Learning - 2pm

3rd – 7th April

Easter

Tuesday 14th April

Assembly 5CzB Hosting, 5CzB, 3/4S, Prep B, Music & SRC presenting

School Hours

8.55am – 2.45pm

Lunch: 11.30 – 12.15pm

Recess: 1.45 – 2.00pm

Classrooms open at 8.30am

For student safety, students are not to be on the school premises before 8.30 am or after 3 pm.

Before school care 8.00 – 8.30 am for a small cost.

School Office Hours 8.30 am – 3.30 pm

☎ 6228 1549

📞 Mobile (text for absence): 0400 701 682

✉ bowen.road.primary@decyp.tas.gov.au



Dear Families,

A warm welcome to all our existing and new families!

We've had a beautifully calm and settled start to the year, with students moving straight into learning routines and expectations.

All of our staff worked exceptionally hard to ensure everything was ready for students on Day 1. At the beginning of last week, teachers joined colleagues from Springfield, Goodwood and Glenorchy Primary Schools for professional learning focused on trauma-informed practices. This work strengthens our commitment to ensuring every classroom is inclusive, safe and welcoming.

Staff also engaged with new mathematics instructional materials, which will be taught across all P-6 classes for **5 hours each week** in 2026.

Class Learning Agreements, based on our school values, are being established in all classrooms to support shared expectations for behaviour.

Our newly completed **gym mural** looks incredible and has transformed the space. A huge thank you to **Tom O'Hern**, talented local artist and parent, and our dedicated **School Association**, who funded this wonderful project.

School Association meetings are held twice a term in the school library at **3:00 pm** (day to be confirmed). We would love to welcome more parents to the team as we continue to grow and improve the school we are all so proud of. **All welcome!**

Join us for **Meet the Teacher** next -

📅 **Tuesday 17 February**

🕒 **From 2:30 pm**

Further details and Teacher presentation times will be sent home on Thursday.

Sun Hats: Required for all students during Term 1.

Correct School Uniform: Please ensure students are in the correct uniform each day.

Duty of care for students is provided between 8.30 am and 3.00 pm. Students are not supervised outside of these hours and parents must utilise before school care (see the Office) or make after school care arrangements.

We look forward to working with you to support your child's learning and well-being at our school this year.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Kelly-Bounds



Attendance - Let's start the year strongly—while we understand children can become unwell or overtired at times, on all other days it is incredibly important that they attend school **every day and arrive on time**.

- Our literacy and maths routines are carefully sequenced across the week. When children regularly miss a day each week or fortnight, or arrive late, they can quickly fall behind and become out of sync with the rest of the class. This impacts their confidence, learning progress, and sense of belonging.
- We need the support of all families to ensure children attend school as much as possible. Strong attendance sets students up for success—academically, socially and emotionally.

Introducing new staff to Bowen Road Primary and welcome!



Katie Bowden joins us as Support Teacher working Wednesday – Friday and overseeing support needs primarily in the Kinder – Year 2 area of the school. Previously Katie was at Brighton Primary.



Sam Broadby will be teaching the Year 5 class on Fridays, sharing the class with Mr. Czerkiewicz. Sam has children at Bowen Road

and also represents parents on the School Association.



Nikki Smith joined us in Term 4 last year as our permanent Education Support Specialist (ESS) working primarily in Prep and Year 1 classes. Nikiki also works as a Teacher Assistant (TA).



Taylor McConnon is working four days a week this Term as a Teacher Assistant (TA). Taylor is a former student of Bowen Road and Mrs. Kelly-Bounds used to teach her!



Alex Browning is working four days a week this year as a Teacher Assistant (TA). Alex is a former student of Bowen Road!



Emily Smith is working two days a week this Term as a Teacher Assistant (TA). Emily completed her TAFE TA training with us last year.



Tash Young is working four days a week this year as a Teacher Assistant (TA). Tash completed her TAFE TA training with us last year and also has children at Bowen Road.

Validation Forms

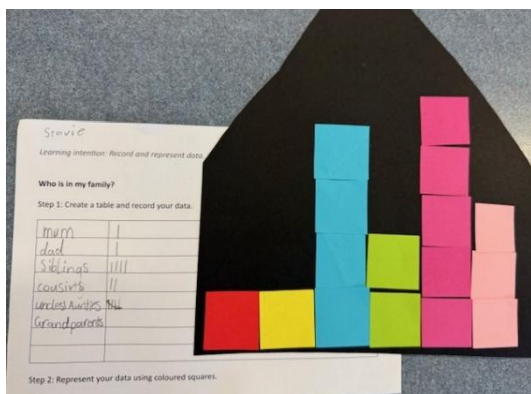
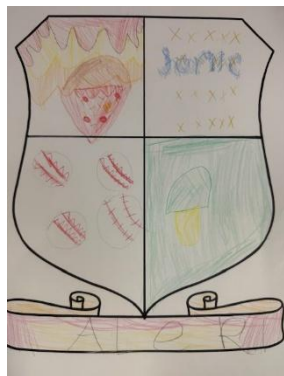
Validation Forms are going home this week. Our school uses this information to check addresses, update emergency phone numbers and to check the information is correct in our school system. It is also important to fill in the permission part of the form as this updates your child's permissions. It is important we get these back quickly so we can update our system. Please fill in the forms and return them to the class teacher or the office. We will be trialling EdSmart for year 2 validations and hope to roll out for all classes next year.

Congratulations to our Class Captains for Term 1

Prep B: Ally & Joshua	1 S: Sophie & Freddie
2 SN: Lorelai & Liam L	3/4 LV: Fatemeh & Eric
3/4 S: Lacey & Max R	5 CzB: Melody & Teddy
6 E: Jemma & Pacey	

2SN

Our students have **settled** in well to their new classroom. Our class have started the year by creating their own personal coat of arms which represents who they are and some of their interests. With Miss Nash, our class has been collecting and representing data about their families. We have also discussed what our classroom values will be and what they will look like. Overall, a very positive start to the year!



Using EdSmart for digital forms

Bowen Road Primary School is switching to using Parent Slips with EdSmart. Parent Slips are electronic forms that will replace certain paper forms.

For Parent Slips, you will receive an SMS or email notification with a link to click. This opens to a secure web page where you can complete the form. Any data you submit in the forms is stored safely with EdSmart and is only visible to authorised school staff.

This change will help make communication with families easier and timelier. It also reduces the number of paper forms we need to send home.

If you would prefer a paper form or if you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Car Parking and Safety

Parents are asked NOT to park in the staff car park before or after school. (It is fine after 3.30 when collecting children from after school care.) We also ask, in the name of safety, that parents use the school pathways to the road rather than cutting through the car park.



Athletics Carnival

We have both or K-2 and 3-6 Athletics Carnivals coming up very early in the term. The K-2 Athletics Carnival is on Thursday the 19th of February and the 3-6 Carnival is on Friday the 20th of February. Both Carnivals will be held on the school oval from approximately 9.15am. Spectators are welcome. Students are encouraged to wear house colours and pack plenty of water, food and sunscreen. There will be family events at the K-2 Carnival so wear your running shoes.

Walk Safely to School Day Friday 26th February

If you would like to join Miss Higham or Mr Sinfield, meet them at either Benjafield Park or Ashbolt Crescent store at 8:10am ready to leave by 8:15am. There will be fruit and breakfast available for those who have participated.



It is still summertime so the children **MUST** have a hat when playing and working outside. The hat needs to be a 'sun safe' hat with a broad brim, available from the office for \$10.00.



6E

What a busy few days it's been in 6E!

Students have been getting to know each other and themselves as they explore what it means to be a leader and the strengths they can bring to this role in 2026.



The first question students were asked on day 1 was how do you want to feel at school?

These were some of the responses: understood, calm, supported, valued, happy, focused, respected, safe, fantastic!

Students were then asked what do we need to do to help you feel that way?

Our Class Agreement was written from the response to this question.

These are some of the ways we are going to work in 6E:

- **Courage:**

We take a deep breath when feeling challenged.
We are upstanders.

- **Responsibility**

We use strategies to get ready to learn.
We are trustworthy.

- **Growth:**

We are open minded to feedback.
We are positive about learning.

- **Respect**

We keep our hands and feet to ourselves.
We listen with our brains, eyes and shoulders tuned in to the speaker.
We are polite, patient and kind.

- **Connection:**

We encourage, listen to and help others.
We work as a team.

6E are excited to be the leaders of Bowen Road Primary in 2026. Our younger students have kind and caring role models to look up to throughout 2026. We look forward to sharing our leading and learning adventures with you.



MWEW/HealthLit4Kids Heroes

This year's year 3/4 health heroes are Olivia, Freya, Daisy, Olive, Melissa, Yasasi and Tara. They will be promoting health around our school. Some of their roles will include running games and activities at break times, advertising upcoming events, writing items for the newsletter and creating posters.



Bravehearts

Ditto Bravehearts are coming to our school to deliver a message to our K-2 students about 'Keeping Safe' you received some information yesterday. They will visit our school on the 12th May.



Family Engagement in Learning

Dear Families,

We are excited to be welcoming you back to the 2026 school year. A special welcome to our Kindergarten families and families who have just joined our Bowen Road Primary School community.

We will be offering two Family Engagement in Learning Sessions this term. The first session will be held next week. **This session is a special 'Meet the Families Session'.** Please see the separate notice about this session in the newsletter.

Our second session will be held in classrooms on Tuesday 24th March. The focus for learning will be Harmony Day, and we will have some exciting activities for you to engage in with your child.

We will continue with our series of guest speakers on various Tuesday afternoons throughout the term. More information about this to follow soon.

Ms Kim Zeitzen

Learning in Families Together (LiFT) Coordinator



Safeguarding at our School

Safeguarding is the term used to describe protecting a child or young person's health, wellbeing and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm. Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility and a priority focus – not only for our school but for the whole of the Department for Education, Children and Young People (the Department).

We are all responsible for protecting children and young people from harm.

Our safeguarding work is guided by the Department's framework for safeguarding children and young people: Safe. Secure. Supported. Our Safeguarding Framework and is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

All staff at our school hold Registration to Work with Vulnerable People and undertake annual safeguarding training. This training provides our staff with practical information about how to safeguard children and young people from harm, including when and how to report concerns and information about child abuse.

Bowen Road Primary School is committed to being a Child and Youth Safe Organisation

Our school is committed to implementing Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Standards. Through this, we promote a child safe culture – which means creating an environment in which everyone feels safe and supported to speak up and stop child abuse.

Our Safeguarding Lead

Ricky Sinfield is our school's Safeguarding Lead. They collaborate with our school's Support and Wellbeing Team and the wider school community to help monitor and support the safety and wellbeing of our students. Part of their role is to prevent, identify and address potential risks to the safety and wellbeing of our students, particularly where these risks involve child abuse.

Literacy at Bowen Road in 2026

Literacy will continue to be a major focus at Bowen Road in 2026, with a strong commitment to evidence-based teaching and high-quality learning experiences that support every child to become a confident reader, writer and communicator.

Explicit Phonics Instruction with UFLI

Across the early years, teachers will continue to utilise UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) to explicitly teach phonics. This structured and systematic approach supports students to develop strong foundations in letter-sound knowledge, decoding and word reading. By explicitly teaching these skills, we are helping students build accuracy and confidence as they learn to read and spell.

Word Origins in Years 3–6

In the upper primary grades, Word Origins will continue to be a key component of literacy learning in Years 3–6. Through the explicit teaching of prefixes, suffixes and root words, students deepen their understanding of how words work. This strengthens vocabulary knowledge, improves spelling and supports comprehension of increasingly complex texts across all curriculum areas.

A New Reading Comprehension Curriculum

This year, Bowen Road will be launching a new reading comprehension curriculum that places high-quality, rich texts at the heart of every lesson. Students will engage with purposeful texts that expose them to sophisticated vocabulary, big ideas and diverse perspectives. Teachers will explicitly model and teach comprehension strategies, supporting students to think deeply about what they read and to develop strong reasoning and discussion skills.

Novel studies in Year 4					
Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	Term 4
	Michael, Wonder by R.J. Palacio, 2023 ISBN: 9780590884729		Uncle XBOX by Michael Morpurgo, 2023 ISBN: 9781602261363		Bindi by Kate Saunders, 2023 ISBN: 9781602261368
	Leo and Ralph by Peter Carnavas, 2022 ISBN: 9780732286218		The Arrival by Shaun Tan, 2014 ISBN: 9780734413988		The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum, 2010 ISBN: 9780141196818
					Teacher choice

Home Reading Program

We would also like to inform families that the home reading program will begin in Week 3. Further information will be shared to support families in fostering strong reading habits at home and to ensure continuity between school and home learning.

We look forward to an exciting year of literacy learning in 2026 and value the continued partnership with families as we support our students to achieve success

School Volunteers

As we kick off the new school year, we want to remind our school community about the important requirements for volunteering at our school.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, it is mandatory for all volunteers to have their RWVP (Registration for Working with Vulnerable People) and to have completed the Our Obligations – Safeguarding Training 15-minute video before engaging with children and young people in a volunteer capacity at our school. Certificates for the training video are valid for 12 months. Please email or give a copy to the school office. These steps are essential in helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for our children.

To apply for a Registration for Working with Vulnerable people, please visit:

<https://www.service.tas.gov.au/services/working-in-tasmania/working-with-vulnerable-people-including-children/apply-for-registration-to-work-with-vulnerable-people>

To complete the Our Obligations – Safeguarding Training 15-minute video please visit:

<https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/safe-children/safeguarding-children/safeguarding-training/>

Volunteers are a vital part of our school community, and we are excited to collaborate with you in the year ahead.



Method of Communication:	Purpose:
School phone 6228 1549 0400 701 682	Notification of absence and general contact
Email teacher.name @decyp.tas.gov.au	Direct communication with a staff member
SeeSaw	Celebration of learning and classroom information
Bowen Road Primary School Facebook page	Bowen Road Primary School Facebook page is for sharing school wide events, celebrating learning and reminders/updates for our school community.
Bowen Road Primary Launching into Learning Facebook	To keep our LiL families informed about our Launching into Learning program.

