



From the Principal Maria

We have commenced the term with a buzz of excitement and have already had our first excursion for the year to Sugarloaf Sailing Club! Our students had a wonderful day learning new skills and putting them into practise on the water. It was great to see some of our families joining us on the day and participating in the experience.

I would like to thank the Sugarloaf Sailing Club for having us and Svetlana who organised this event. If you or your children would like to become a member of the Sugarloaf Sailing Club or would like more information, please contact Greig Bannister at: www.sailsugarloaf.com.

New Staff Member

We would like to welcome Megan King to CHPS who will be working as an Education Support person at the school. Megan has settled quickly and has already made an impact on our students, bonding quickly and providing lots of positive feedback. It is great to have Megan onboard at the school and working with our students to support them with their learning and social development.

Home Reading

Last week students took home their Home Readers. We are encouraging students to practice their reading each night and change their readers daily. Building a love of reading in your child by reading aloud at home strengthens their language, vocabulary and comprehension skills, and improves their social skills and confidence as you listen to them read. The school has purchased a range of new books which students can choose from and they all seem very excited and motivated when selecting books to take home. We have included some information for parents to assist with supporting their child/children however please do not hesitate to speak with us if you have any questions.

Term One

19th February, 2024

Important Dates for Term 1

- 19th February - School Council meeting—3:45 pm (Webex link to be sent)
- 20th February - Hockey Incursion
- 20th February—Tennis lessons
- 21st February - Athletics PE Incursion
- 22nd February- Hockey Incursion
- 26th February-new playground commencing
- 27th February - Tennis lessons
- 28th February - Athletics PE - incursion
- 1st March—Healesville swimming carnival
- 5th March—Tennis lessons
- 6th March—School photos
- 8th March—Curriculum day
- 11th March—Labour day public holiday
- 12 March—Tennis lesson
- 13th March—NAPLAN
- 19th March - Tennis lessons
- 28th March-Last day of term—2:30 finish



Sensory Garden – Inclusive School Fund Project

We meet last week with Space Designs and Modus Projects who were awarded the contract for the project. We are scheduled to commence on Monday 26th February. On this day the crew will prepare the site setup and over the week landscaping works will be happening. The area will be totally fenced off from the students and the community to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place whilst the works are occurring. The project is scheduled to be completed by the last week of term 1 which is very exciting!

Whole School Events

- Athletics sessions commenced last Wednesday and the students thoroughly enjoyed the session. These will run weekly up until the end of term at 11.30-12.30pm.
- Tennis starts this Tuesday from 11.30-12.30pm and these sessions will run for the students up until the end of the term.
- Hockey is happening this week and students will participate in two sessions which will take place on Tuesday from 9.00-10.00 and on Thursday from 2.30-3.30.
- Bush School started last Monday and these sessions will run each week at 2.00-3.30pm.

Prep 2025 Tasters

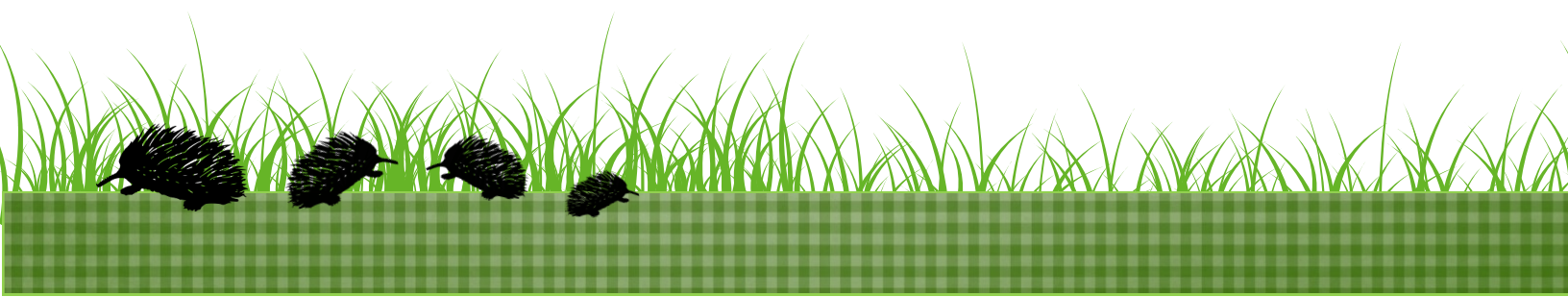
We will be running “Taster” sessions for 2025 preps starting this Tuesday 20th February. These will occur over three weeks and will run from 9.30 to 10.30 in Quip Quip. Again, we are asking our parent community to get the word out to families and promote what our school has to offer including individualised learning and a range of unique experiences and programmes.

CHPS 150th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday 4th May

We will be celebrating our school’s 150th Anniversary this year and we are already in the process of organising a range of events as part of a community celebration. We will be working with our school community and the Nillumbik Shire to plan and promote this event which will provide a fabulous opportunity for us to highlight our school. We will be discussing this more at our School Council Meeting on Monday afternoon.

NESST Curriculum Day – Friday 8th March

The second of this year’s curriculum days is scheduled for Friday 8th March. Our staff will be joining teachers from other local schools for professional development activities. Please note that this is a pupil free day and parents will need to plan for children supervision on this day.



Policy for Fire Danger Ratings for School Closures and Relocation Procedures

We have updated our school policy in relation to Fire Danger Rating Closure and Relocation Policy and Procedure ensuring it complies with all Department of Education requirements and will be sharing this shortly with our school community.

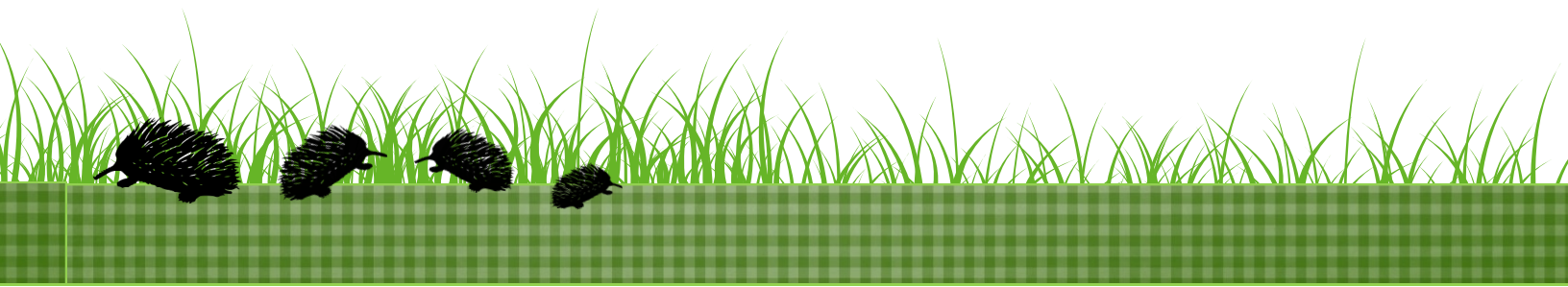
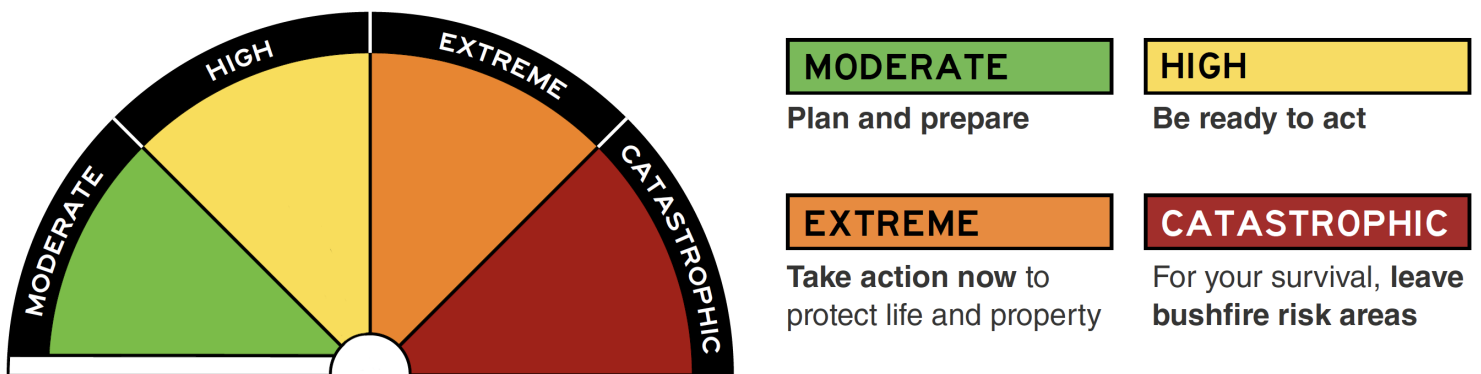
Last week the school did receive notification that Tuesday (13th February) was predicted to have an LGA rating of HIGH for the Nillumbik Shire. This rating meant that our school would be open and operational as normal. The day went smoothly and we put in place a "hot weather timetable" ensuring students remained inside during recess and lunch times. We always encourage our families to take appropriate personal fire and hot weather safety precautions and to follow their own fire safety plans.

Just a reminder to families that the school uses the Fire Danger Ratings for the NILLUMBIK Local Government Area. On days that are predicted to be EXTREME the school relocates to Kangaroo Ground Primary School and on days predicted to be CATASTROPHIC the school is closed.

We are always guided by the Department of Education and the CFA regarding Fire-Danger Ratings and advise our parents/carers immediately once we receive any communication.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maria Parks

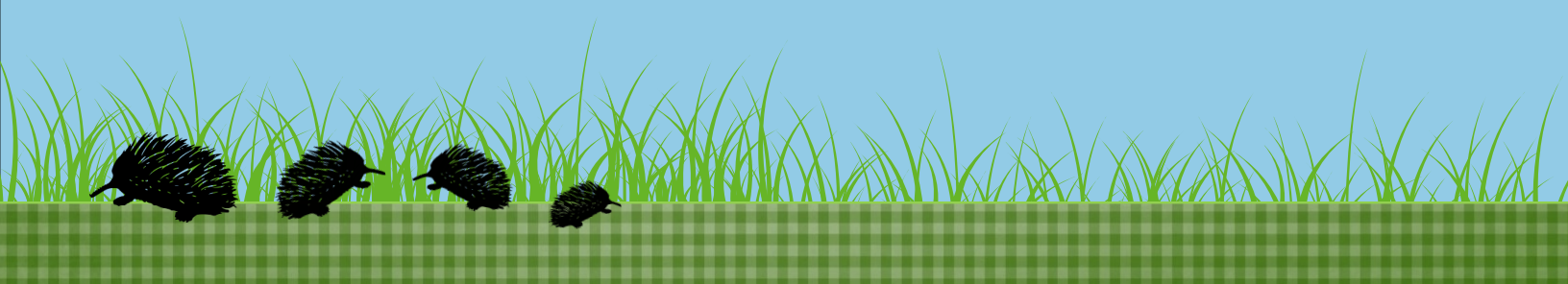




OUR WEEK



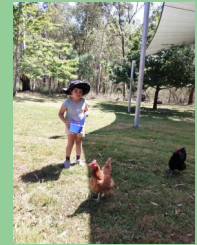
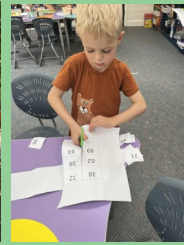
AT C.H.P.S





OUR WEEK

AT C.H.P.S



Meet Our Staff

Megan - Our New Education Support Officer



About Me

My name is Megan. I'm a mum of 3 kids. I love animals and playing games. I enjoy spending time in the sunshine with my family and friends.

Fun fact

I have 2 mini cows that are like big snuggly dogs!

My Favorites

COLOR: Pink

FLOWER: Sunflower

HOBBY: Reading

DRINK: Soda Water

FOOD: Guacamole & corn chips

SUBJECT TO Learn: Art





CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

PREP TASTER SESSIONS

Caring

Honesty

Inquisitiveness

Respect

Persistence

Sharing



Three interactive sessions



See our unique rural learning environment



Come and meet our staff

Is your child starting Prep in 2025?

We are offering three Prep school taster sessions.

These sessions will be held on

Tuesday 20th February - 9:30am - 10:30am

Tuesday 27th February - 9:30am - 10:30am

Tuesday 5th March - 9:30am - 10:30am



Ring the Christmas Hills Primary School to book in

9730 1238

1409 Eltham - Yarra Glen Road, Christmas Hills



HOME READING

Parent Guide

Home readers are designed to develop a child's confidence in reading aloud with accuracy, fluency and expression, consolidate phonics and high-frequency word knowledge, and nurture a love of reading. They should be relatively easy for students to read independently. Teachers will monitor your child's reading progress at school and students will be exposed to more difficult books (instructional texts) during guided reading sessions.

Please note that your child will not be able to read even the simplest home readers with independent accuracy when they first start school. Initially they will require extra parent assistance. However, reading independence will progress as your child's phonics and high frequency word knowledge increases.

We really encourage you to ask your child questions about their reader to ensure that they understand what they have read. Ask your child to retell the story focusing on sequential order and including as much detail as possible.

The following pages contain some top tips for reading at home with your child.

"Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible." Barack Obama



BEFORE READING...

- Look at the cover, discuss the title, author and illustrator of the book and allow your child time to look at the pictures. Encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover illustrations. If a book contains no words, this is a great opportunity for imagination to take over and for your child to create their own story.
- Ask them to predict what the story might be about.
- Make sure you are both comfortable and can clearly see the text.
- Talk about connections between you and other books, or the world. This will help to provide context.

DURING READING...

- For beginning readers:
 - Read the whole story with your child. Ask your child to point to every word as you read it. Then reread the story again together. Finally, ask your child to have a go at reading the book on their own (they will remember some of the words and feel more confident having already listened to the book being read once or twice before).
 - Read a sentence and have your child repeat it. Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.
- As your child's reading ability develops:
 - Take turns reading a sentence or a page each.
 - Give your child lots of opportunities to try and self-correct or work out the word for themselves. If your child makes an error, do not correct it until the end of the sentence to allow them to develop some fluency.
 - If your child successfully works out a word that they have stumbled over, suggest that they go back to the beginning of the sentence and read the whole sentence again to recap meaning.

Talk about the story as you read it. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? How is the character feeling right now?

WHAT IF MY CHILD CAN'T READ A WORD?

Encourage your child to work out unknown words by using the following reading strategies:

- Look through the whole word, left to right.
- Hop to each sound from left to right and say each sound.
- Highlight the sounds in a word and chunk sounds together. You might like to use your fingers to break the word into recognisable chunks. *Can you see any little words in this word? E.g. find the 'th' in that, now find the 'at'.*
- Stretch out the sounds in words and then slowly blend them together. You might like to cover up the end sounds and begin by blending the first sounds, before adding the final sound. E.g. 'c-a' is 'ca', then add the 't' to make 'cat'.
- Chop the word into syllables e.g. rab-bit
- Think about similar words. Look carefully at the word and think about whether it is similar to any other words that you know e.g. hat, cat, pat.
- Separate the base word from any prefixes or suffixes e.g. play-ing.
- Go back to the beginning of the sentence, re-read it and check that it makes sense.
- Provide your child with any unknown spelling patterns that may appear in tricky words - these may be uncommon spellings, or your child may not have been taught that spelling pattern yet.
- If none of these strategies have helped, then ask your child if they would like you to help them- you could give more clues or to tell them the word. Re-read the word again in the context of the sentence. Discuss any tricky parts of the word.

Don't be afraid to read the same book again. This can help to build a child's confidence and develop fluency and expression.



AFTER READING...

- What was your favourite part?
- Who are the characters?
- When did the story happen? (e.g. at night, after school)
- Where did the story take place?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story?
- What happened next?
- **Develop inferential comprehension skills** (background knowledge + text clue = inference)
 - Why did something happen?
 - Why do you think...
 - Why did the character...
 - How did the character feel?
 - Predict what would happen if...
 - Predict what will happen when...
 - What lesson does this book teach?
 - How did the character feel when?
 - From this story you could probably guess...
 - What might happen next in the story?
 - Can you think of a different ending?
- Make links to the text, self and world.
 - What would you have done in that situation?
 - Can you think of a time something similar happened to you?
 - What lesson did you learn from this story?
- Find me a page where... (developing comprehension)
- Find me the sentence, word, part of the word, full stop (developing grammar and spelling knowledge)
- Find me this word.



THE DOS OF READING WITH YOUR CHILD

- Make sure you spend lots of time **reading for enjoyment**- read to your child as well as have them read to you, and keep the sessions fun.
- Ensure you are **relaxed, interested and supportive** as this will in turn help your child to feel ok when they make mistakes or can't work out a word.
- Remember that the **goal of reading is to understand (make sense)** of what is read, so always keep this in mind when you are prompting or praising your child.
- Give your child **plenty of praise**. We want our kids to love to read!
- Keep the **sessions short** so that your child is not overwhelmed.
- Model **correct posture and strategies** as you read with your child.
- If they make an error, try not to jump in straight away and supply the correct word. Instead, **wait and give your child the time** to work it out. This will help them to not feel rushed or pressured.
- Encourage your child to **have a go at words** that they cannot read.
- **Talk, talk, talk** → encourage your child to develop their comprehension skills by predicting, questioning and discussing characters and events. Relate the pictures and experiences in the book to your child's own experiences.
- Remember **some children take a while** for things to "click"- don't worry if their progress is slow to begin with or takes time! Every child learns at different rates.
- **Play word games** e.g. *can you think of other words that rhyme with cat? What other words start with 's'?*

THE DON'TS OF READING WITH YOUR CHILD

- **Don't encourage guesswork.** Encourage your child to focus carefully on the sounds in words, rather than relying on guesswork or picture clues.
- **Don't make reading feel like a chore** or a pressured experience.
- **Don't encourage comparisons** with other children. Every child is on their own learning journey!
- Don't be afraid to **ask for help or advice.**



CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL **PLAYGROUP**

9:30am - 11:00am
Every Tuesday morning



**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

Playgroup will be held in the
Christmas Hills
Primary School Library
9730 1238
1409 Eltham Yarra Glen Road
Christmas Hills



THE

DARK HORSE



CHPS LUNCH ORDER MENU

Nuggets & Chips \$7
Burger & Chips \$7
Napolitana Pasta \$7
Chips \$4
Party Sausage Roll \$2
Party Pie \$2

Chocolate Milk \$3
Strawberry Milk \$3
Orange Juice \$2.5
Apple Juice \$2.5

Zooper Dooper \$2

LUNCH ORDERS EVERY WEDNESDAY

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR ORDER AND CHILD'S NAME ON A BROWN PAPER BAG AND
ENCLOSE CORRECT MONEY.**

LUNCH ORDERS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN 3:30PM TUESDAYS



Call us to arrange a tour
9730 1238
0499 205 083

1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Rd,
Christmas Hills, Vic 3775
Christmas.hills.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Being SunSmart in Victoria



When **UV** is **3+**



Slip on covering clothing



Slop on SPF50,
broad-spectrum,
water-resistant sunscreen



Slap on a broad-brimmed hat



Seek shade



Slide on sunglasses (AS:1067)

Think **UV**, not heat! UV rays can't be seen or felt and can damage your skin on cool or cloudy days.

When **UV**
is below **3**

Sun protection isn't required unless you are outdoors for extended periods or near reflective surfaces, such as snow.



Download the
**SunSmart Global
UV app** to find sun
protection times
for your location.

March 2023



Scan the QR code or visit
sunsmart.com.au/app
to download.



Newsletter article: Schools in Category 0, 1 and 2 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register

This information has been developed to answer frequently asked questions regarding the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and your school's pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).



On elevated fire danger days schools in the highest levels of risk (categories 0, 1 and 2) take pre-emptive actions to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

These actions are based on the Local Government Area they are in and their fire risk category.

In addition, all schools and services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which include numerous Local Government Areas. Our school is in the **Central fire weather district**.

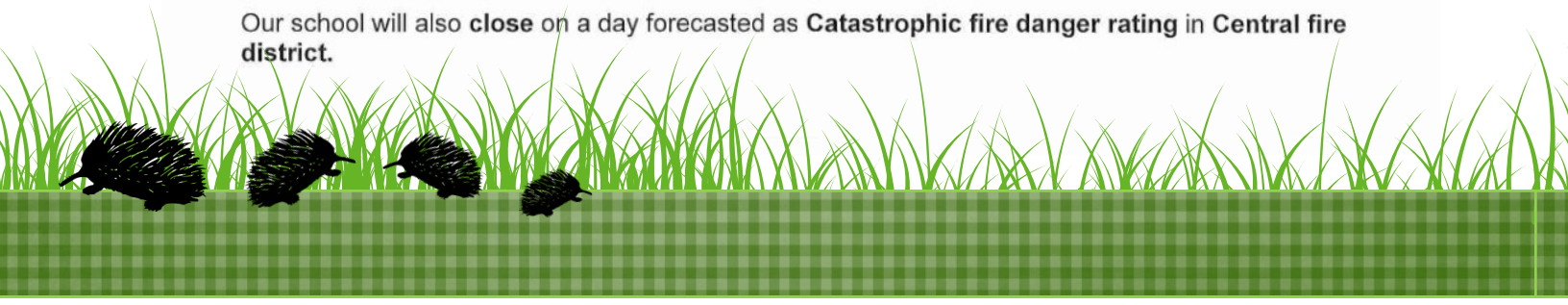
As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and such as reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories - BARR 1

Our school will action its pre-emptive plan for **relocation** on a day forecasted as **Extreme fire danger rating** in our **local government area (LGA), Nillumbik**.

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Central fire district**.



What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires schools at high risk of bushfire to enact pre-emptive action plans based on LGA level fire danger forecasts. Conditions can vary significantly across the wider weather district, so using local forecasts helps us to respond appropriately to risks in our local area and maintain stability and educational continuity for our students and school community. This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services.

The policy also requires that all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school enact our pre-emptive action plan?

Our school will action our pre-emptive plan to **Kangaroo Ground Primary School** on days when the fire danger forecast for our local government area, Nillumbik is **Extreme**.

Our school will use the LGA forecast confirmed by emergency services the day before an Extreme fire danger day in our LGA to trigger our plan. We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan. Please be aware that no one will be on site on days where the school has enacted this plan.

What do we do when our LGA has a different fire danger rating to the wider fire weather district?

As we respond to local conditions, there may be days during the fire season when our fire weather district, Central is forecast as an Extreme fire danger rating, but our LGA is at a lower level of fire danger. On these days our school operations will continue as normal, however we will be taking action in line with fire services advice by:

- checking our Emergency Management Plan and taking any necessary preparedness actions
- actively monitor our local conditions and warnings
- having plans and procedures in place for if a fire starts to support us to take immediate action.

While our school will continue to operate, we encourage our school community to consider their own [bushfire survival plan](#) and reassess any travel through bushfire risk areas. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

There may also be days where our LGA is forecast as Extreme fire danger, but Central is not. On these days we **will** enact our pre-emptive action plan.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

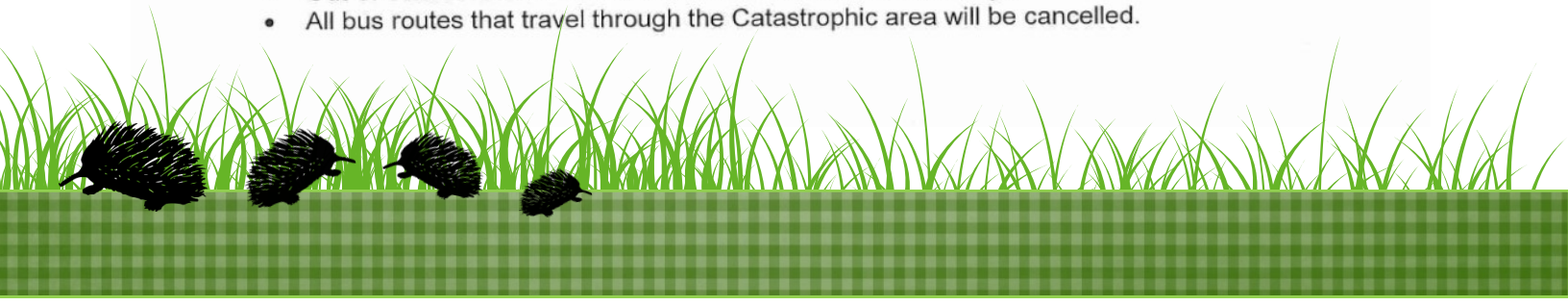
Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Sentral

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.

This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.



- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by - reading our newsletters, checking our website <https://www.christmashillsp.vic.edu.au/>, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is relocated or closed due to fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Enact your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Caring Honesty Inquisitiveness



Christmas Hills Primary School

At CHPS we show our CHIRPS by...

Respect Persistence Sharing

Yard	Transitions	Classes	Toilets	Excursions
Hear calm, polite and friendly voices	Calm, organised	Be mindful of personal space	Good hygiene	Be good role models
See inclusive play with a variety of activities	Enter learning spaces in an orderly manner	Take responsibility for your own learning	Respect others' privacy	Hear calm, polite and friendly voices
See people caring for each other		Respectful listening		Be mindful of the general public
Respect nature				Move in an orderly, calm manner

SCHOOL UNIFORM



UNIFORM PRICES

- Polo shirt size 6,8,12,14- \$15
- Polo shirt - Adult S,M, L - \$21.50
- Wide brim hat - \$15
- Communication satchel - \$15
- Child vest - \$17.90 Adult 21.20
- Blue gingham dress- \$18
- Grade six top - \$46

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy https://8d0001fd-7093-4eag-a8ao-18243b681791.filesusr.com/ugd/e4e23b_76d1f56e3fbd4996a911be9c22400599.pdf describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

- * Amharic
- * Arabic
- * Dari
- * Gujarati
- * Mandarin
- * Somali
- * Sudanese
- * Turkish
- * Urdu
- * Vietnamese