NO 1

20 FEBRUARY, 2026

NEWSLETTER

Robe Primary School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

ONWARD & UPWARD

2026 school year begins and the feeling is positive and productive. Term 1 is always super busy with many events and activities to look forward to.

An important one to mention – being our annual Family Expo held on Thursday February 12 2026. Thank you to all of our 41 families who attended this special day - a remarkable effort and sincerely appreciated by everyone - staff and especially, the kids. It was a fantastic day showcasing how our work with the Engagement Continuum, the Learning Pit, and dispositions is positively impacting our learners. We hope you were able to both see and hear the language of learning that is developing across every year level. Our Year 5/6 students did an outstanding job preparing for and leading the day. Thank you 😊

Thank you also to the members of the Governing Council who attended — your voice is vital in strengthening our collective school culture.

Thank you to Robe staff for their positivity and amazing work with the kids leading up to this day – it was an intense 3 weeks but well worth all the hard work when you look through the window of our school hall. A special shout out to Mardi – above and beyond as usual, Geoff Randell who helped us display the amazing banners, Robyn Russell for the tools & eyelets and the Lions Club for the use of their trestle tables. Much appreciated.

Our shared school vision is one of a caring community that fosters healthy and happy lifestyles, encourages excellence, and promotes lifelong learning through our unique framework of *'Learning to Learn – Learning for Life'*.

IMPORTANT DATES

MONDAY 23rd - FRIDAY 27th FEB
- Swimming Week

MONDAY 2nd - FRIDAY 6th MARCH
- Nude Food Week

FRIDAY 6th MARCH
- Assembly 2:45pm - Year 3/4 Presentation

MONDAY 9TH MARCH
- **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

THURSDAY 12TH MARCH
- Robe P.S. Sports Day - Robe Primary School oval

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH
- SAPSASA Athletics - Millicent

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH
- Assembly 2:45pm - Year 1/2 Presentation

TUESDAY 24TH - WED 25TH MARCH
- Learning Discussions - Early dismissal 2:15pm on Tuesday

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL
- **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
- **RPS EASTER FETE**

MONDAY 6TH APRIL
- **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

The Learning Pit

Brain Science
The Learning Pit

Dispositions

Dispositions

The Learning Pit

Staff Roles 2026

·**Tom Wachtel** (4 days) and **Anne Grayson** (1 day) are our R/1 class teachers.

·**Tom Wachtel** is also our NIT teacher (1 day) with a focus on PE & Health, and our Sports Coordinator.

·**Penny Day** is our Year 1/2 class teacher.

·**Kylie Johns** is our Year 3/4 class teacher and is also our Autism Inclusion Teacher (AIT).

·**Jane Hayes** is our Year 5/6 class teacher, as well as our Curriculum Coordinator. In this role, Jane is responsible for: general administration, Student Services and staff professional learning with Brightpath.

·**Kimberley Austin** is our NIT teacher (3 days) teaching HASS and Science as well as being the SAPSASA Coordinator.

·**Nat Boulden** will be working each Tuesday as our Well-being Coordinator.

·**Cassie Bermingham** – Finance Manager – Supervisor of Student Support Officers (SSO's).

·**Jodi Keane** – SSO & School administration.

·**Mardi Brooks, Georgie Sneath, Lisa Maczkowiack & Lashay Semple** – our very valued SSO's.

This year and at this time, we have 86 students attending Robe Primary School. 7 new students started in our Reception class this year, 5 of them are new families to our school – that is with no other older siblings attending our school. We also have 9 new Reception students joining our school with the mid-year intake, taking our numbers to 95 students in our care.

We also welcome 2 new families to our community – the Simcock family with Max in the 3/4 class and Tom in the 1/2 class and the Powell family with Harper in our 3/4 class.

Site Improvement Plan

Our overarching priority is to continue developing effective learners through our Learning to Learn – Learning for Life framework. The Engagement Continuum, the Learning Pit, and brain science will remain central in every classroom, inspiring students to be active, reflective, and purposeful participants in their learning.

Our two academic School Learning Plan (SLP) goals will continue to focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary, alongside Mathematics. We remain committed to 'stretching' all students so that every child is supported and challenged to reach their full potential as confident, literate, and numerate learners.

Learning Intentions and Success Criteria (LISC) are now embedded in daily practice, making learning goals clear and visible for students. The consistent use of formative assessment to regularly 'check in' on student progress remains an ongoing and integral part of teaching and learning. These practices will continue to play a vital role in informing instruction and supporting student growth. Our 2026 Professional Learning overview will reflect these priorities.

Professional learning each Tuesday afternoon, along with scheduled Pupil Free Days, will continue to deepen teacher understanding and strengthen intentional teaching aligned with these focus areas.

Sports Day

Organisation and preparation is happening as we speak. This year, for the first time, it will be held at Robe Primary School and the big day is Thursday, March 12th – Week 7. We look forward to another great day. Thank you in advance to Tom, Jodi and staff for their hard work in making this event run as smoothly as possible – appreciated.

Learning Discussions

These important discussions will be held in Week 9, Tuesday 24th March, with a 2:15 pm early dismissal on this day, and Wednesday 25th March, other times through the week may be available, dependent on individual teacher schedules. More specific information will be sent home next week regarding booking/sessions times. The learning discussions provide a vital link between home and school and is an opportunity for parents and carers to talk about the learning journey of their child/children, at that point in time, with classroom teachers.

Little Leaders

Our Little Leaders are being decided as we speak. Classes will be voting for their LL class representatives next week, Year 6 students and aspiring Year 5 leaders gave their speeches on Tuesday, and their interviews are this morning; we will formally announce this afternoon at assembly.

2026 School and Vice Captains This year there will be two School Captains and one Vice Captain.

2026 Sports Captains There will be one Sports Captain and one vice-captain for each Sports Day house.

Partnership Reminder

Our 'South East Coast and Vines' Partnership is the largest partnership in the state. It consists of 28 DECD sites - Beachport Primary, Glencoe Primary, Kalangadoo Primary, Kangaroo Inn Area School, Kingston Community School, Millicent High School , Millicent North Primary, Mt Burr Primary, Nangwarry Primary, Newberry Park Primary, Penola High School, Penola Primary, Rendelsham Primary, Robe Primary, Beachport/Kangaroo Inn/ Mt.Burr/Nangwarry/Tantanoola SchoolBased Preschools, Glencoe/Kalangadoo/ Kingston/ McArthur Park/Millicent North/Rendelsham/Robe Soldiers Memorial Kindergartens, and McKay Children's Centre.

Our *EDUCATION DIRECTOR* is Fleur Roachock and our *PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT* is Di Loveday.

Fete Preparations

Our annual fete preparations have begun with much to do as usual. The fete will be held on Saturday April 4th from 10am – 4pm. Any support, whether you are in the P & F or not, is sincerely appreciated.

SCHOOL WELLBEING

WELCOME

Welcome to all new families joining our school community for 2026. It has been such a positive start to the term, with students settling in well and engaging in our Quality Start program, Learning to Learn - Learning for Life!

WELLBEING SSO

We are very lucky to have Lashay joining us one day a week as a Wellbeing SSO. In this role, Lashay will support classroom teachers and students by providing additional in-class support, particularly for students who may need additional help with regulation. This is a wonderful addition to our school and an important support for both students and staff.

CO-REGULATION

Co-regulation is when adults support children to manage big feelings through calm guidance and connection. With repeated support, children gradually learn to manage their emotions on their own.

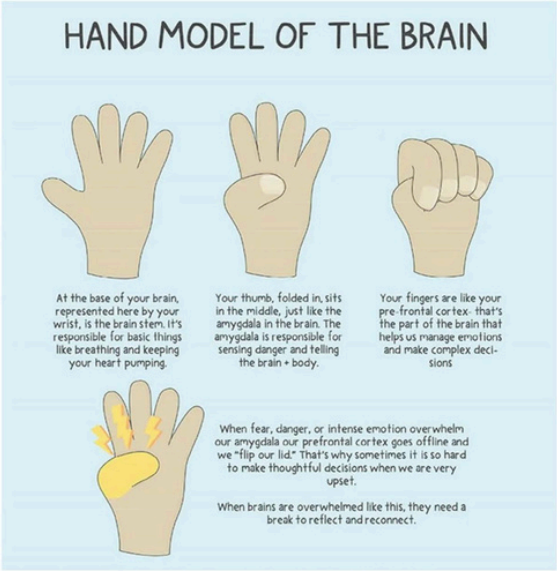
When children feel calm and supported, they are better able to learn, develop friendships and maintain positive wellbeing. For this reason, our school continues to take a consistent, whole-school approach, with a strong focus on co-regulation between staff and students. Co-regulation can look/ sound like a *calm voice, gentle touch, eye contact, proximity, reassurance and guided breathing.*

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

This year we will continue to offer What's the Buzz? program, run by our SSO Georgie. Georgie works with small groups of students each Monday and Tuesday, supporting social skills, communication, and emotional understanding.

BRAIN SCIENCE + REGULATION

Across the school, each class has revisited (or been introduced to) the brain science behind emotions and self-regulation. This learning has supported students to create their own regulation plans, or, in our younger classes, to develop shared class plans. Families are welcome to view these plans, and we encourage consistency between school and home. So, if you would like to see how you can use a similar approach at home, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher.



HAND MODEL OF THE BRAIN

Students and staff use the hand model of the brain to help communicate how they are feeling.

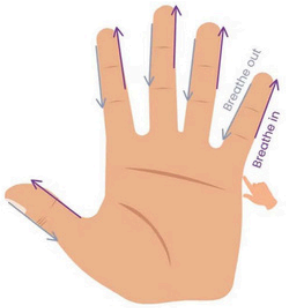
TOOLS FOR HOME

When you notice your child (or yourself) becoming dysregulated try a couple of the following:

1. Ice cold drink of water
2. Splash of cold water on face
3. Five finger breathing

These strategies activate our 'Vagus Nerve' which plays a key role in keeping us calm.

Five Finger Breathing



If you have any questions or concerns, families are encouraged to reach out to their child's classroom teacher. I am also available every Tuesday to meet with families as part of my wellbeing role. Nat Boulden

Term 1 2026 (11 weeks)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	26-Jan Australia Day	27-Jan Start Term 1 Quality start	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan
2	02-Feb Quality Start (cont')	03-Feb	04-Feb	05-Feb	06-Feb **Assembly**
3	09-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb	12-Feb Author visit **Parent EXPO Day-** from 11:30am 19-Feb	13-Feb
4	16-Feb	17-Feb	18-Feb		20-Feb Author visit **Assembly-Year 5/6 Presentation**
5	23-Feb **Swimming Week**	24-Feb	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb
6	02-Mar **Nude Food Week**	03-Mar	04-Mar Lions Free Vision Screening	05-Mar	06-Mar **Assembly-Year 3/4 Presentation**
7	09-Mar **Adelaide Cup**	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar **RPS SPORTS DAY (onsite-on school oval)**	13-Mar
8	16-Mar	17-Mar SAPSASA Athletics-Millicent	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar **Assembly-Year 1/2 Presentation**
9	23-Mar	24-Mar **Learning Discussions** Early Dismissal 2:15pm	25-Mar **Learning Discussions**	26-Mar	27-Mar
10	30-Mar	31-Mar	01-Apr	02-Apr	03-Apr **Good Friday** **RPS Easter Fete-Saturday 4th April** 10-Apr
11	06-Apr **Easter Monday**	07-Apr	08-Apr	09-Apr	Last day Term 1 Assembly 1:45pm Early Dismissal 2:15pm

PREMIER'S READING Challenge

Is your child taking up the Challenge in 2026?

The Challenge is to read **12 books in total**.

For Reception to Year 6 students, **8** of these books are to be from the Challenge booklists (available on the Premiers Reading Challenge website) and **4** of their own choice.

The Premiers Reading Challenge booklist is divided into 3 different age groups for primary students. Books will usually have a coloured sticker either on the spine or front cover to indicate the targeted age group:

Orange: Reception to Year 2 students
Green: Year 3 to Year 5 students
Yellow: Year 6 to Year 9 students

Reading record sheets are available from the front office. Once 12 books have been read and the record sheet completed, it can be returned to the class teacher or Jodi Keane by
Friday 4th September, 2026.

Robe Primary School also offers extra incentives for students that read beyond the 12 book Challenge expectations. Please see the page following for more details.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kylie Johns or Jodi Keane, or visit the website at premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au.

New Members Welcome!

ROBE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Join us to discover how the Parents & Friends Committee supports our students, teachers, and school community! It's a fantastic way to get involved, share ideas, make new connections and help shape exciting projects for 2026. We're looking for new general committee members and volunteers to help fill key roles. No experience needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved! Come along, have a cuppa and see how you can make a difference!

We'd love to have you on board!

Please contact rpsparentsandfriends@gmail.com for more information or to register your interest!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER FETE!

Easter Fete Sponsorship Letter

We sincerely thank you for your generous support over the years. Your contributions make a real and lasting difference to our students and school community, and we are truly grateful.

In 2026, our two major fundraising events will again be the Easter Fete and our Quiz Night. The Easter Fete will be held on Easter Saturday, 4 April 2026. The Quiz Night will be held in Term 3 (date to be advised). These events are essential in helping us provide valuable resources and opportunities for our students. The Easter Fete is a major community event, with thousands of attendees each year who will see and engage with supporting businesses.

To reduce repeated requests, this letter serves as our primary and ONLY call for sponsorship for 2026, and no further donation requests are planned during the year.

In 2025, a total of $32,000 was raised, which helped provide:

- Equipment for the "No Way to Bullying" outdoor learning space $15,000 (pledged)
- Contribution towards 2025 School Camp $10,000
- A new BBQ to support school events and fundraising $3,000 (Bendigo Bank grant)
- Classroom funds $2,000
- New projector $600

In 2026, funds raised are planned to support:

- Classroom funds
- Contribution to 2026 classroom excursions (transportation costs)
- New cage for sandpit equipment
- Kitchen/garden restoration
- Additional improvements to the outdoor learning space

We welcome support in any of the following ways:
Monetary Sponsorship

Bronze – $100

- Display of your logo at the entertainment or Bar/BBQ area during the Easter Fete

Silver – $200

- All Bronze benefits
- Two bar vouchers for use at the Easter Fete

Gold – $400

- All Silver benefits
- Four bar vouchers and four meal vouchers
- Special promotion board displayed near the Easter Fete Spinning Wheel
- Opportunity to provide your own promotional materials (e.g. banners, flags) to be displayed at the Easter Fete

(Any contribution outside of these tiers is also very welcome.)

Prize & Product Donations

- Products, vouchers or gifts for our Mega Raffle or Spinning Wheel
- Some donations may be reserved for prizes at our Quiz Night later in the year

As a valued supporter, Robe Primary School (with your permission) will acknowledge and promote your business in writing, on our Facebook page, and through announcements on the day of our events.

Your generosity directly supports the learning opportunities and environment of the children at Robe Primary School, and we greatly appreciate your continued partnership.
If you would like to contribute or discuss sponsorship, please contact us via return email or by phoning the school on 8768 2168.

Warm regards, Kyla Boddington & Lizzy Polkinghorne
Robe Primary School Parents & Friends
rpsparentsandfriends@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF LITTLE DIP
& ROBE COASTCARE
• FOLD •

Robe Coastcare

Join us on Long Beach for
Clean Up Australia Day
Sunday 1 March 2026

We invite you to join us on Sunday 1 March for Clean Up Australia Day 2026.

Meet us at 10.00am at the FOLD nursery on White Street, across the road from Mike's Beef Jerky or join us at 10.15am at second Ramp's parking lot. We will walk along Long Beach for a beach clean-up. Bags and protective gloves are provided on the day.

Clean up Australia Day was first held in 1989 and is now an annual event which sees over one million people participate every year.

Please join us and assist us in keeping Robe's beautiful beaches clean.

For further information please contact Helen on 0404 505 065 or Hilary on 0407 189 406.

Clean Up

regional connect

SIES

Statewide Inclusive Education Services

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

COME JOIN THE TERM 1 PARENT/CARER REGIONAL CONNECT!

The Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES) is hosting our termly regional information session.

Join us via Microsoft Teams (click the link below to register) to learn about support and services from SIES followed by **Maria Aydin** our Developmental Educator, Inclusive Practices talking about setting your child up for success.

Thursday 26th February 2026 1pm - 1:45pm

Register here

8235 2871

sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au

www.SIES.sa.edu.au