

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

As we begin the 2026 school year, I warmly welcome our students, families, and staff.

I hope the first few weeks offered a positive start to the year where all were feeling supported, included and ready to start our learning journey together.

We are committed to being a SAFE, KIND and CURIOUS space at Doxa School Bendigo and are incredibly grateful to work with our 2026 student cohort.

We welcome both new and returning families to our Doxa community and wish you a great year full of learning, laughter and new experiences.

I would like to remind everyone of the commitment that we all made to assisting to build new schooling experiences for all of our students and families. It is extremely important for students to attend school as much as possible to work together on this learning journey. Over the coming weeks, ILP meetings will take place. This is a time to set goals and strategies to support students attending and accessing their learning. I encourage you all to begin the hard discussions to set up a plan for growth.

Take up every opportunity, give things a go and do all things with kindness

Vanessa Brown  
Principal

# ROOM ONE

## Ruth and Kim

Welcome to room 1 for 2026. Kim and I have had a wonderful few weeks getting to know all the students in our classroom.

We know that starting the new school year can be daunting for some we are very pleased that we have our regular attendees that are engaging and collaborating with others within the class space.

Students have completed their assessments and have been focusing on Literacy and Numeracy tasks as well as developing their personal growth through regular participation in our Social and Emotionally Learning sessions.

We have enjoyed ART, physical movement and cooking sessions. We also have 5 students in our class attending TAFE on Tuesdays studying Building and Construction and Animal Studies and doing a wonderful job.

Many of our students attended the Funfields excursion and had a terrific day making friends, taking up challenges and enjoying the beautiful weather.

Kim and I look forward to meeting with all the families during your ILP meeting in the coming days to celebrate the wonderful things we have been doing in Room 1 and what we have to look forward this year.

# ROOM TWO

## Karl and Hayley

Welcome to room 2 and what a great start to the year it has been!!

Most students are brand-new to DOXA and can I say what a fantastic and enthusiastic group that they are.

During this term we're focusing on getting to know each other and building positive friendships within the classroom. Students have completed "Getting to Know Me" posters, personal strength activities to help identify who they are as a young person.

In Mathematics students have been working on integers including whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Whereas in English students have been working on a persuasive writing task.

Students have also had the opportunity to design, build and refine structures to complete set tasks. From what I've seen, I think we have some budding builders and engineers.

We've already received our first five-star Google Review for the year from one of the students in room 2. Hopefully we'll get a lot more.

# ROOM TWO

## Karl and Hayley



**Google Review by AC:**

**I like DOXA better because it has better wellbeing, like Hayley and you don't have to pay for any food as they supply everything for you.**

**They have smaller classrooms and there is only 52 people in the whole school this year and I don't have to wear a school uniform.**

**DOXA also helps you get work experience.**

# ROOM THREE

## Josh and Sarah

As we begin the new school year, it has been wonderful to see how well our students have settled back into school life. Classrooms have quickly filled with positive energy, curiosity, and a willingness to learn. Students have enjoyed reconnecting with friends, welcoming new faces, and getting back into their learning routines.

One of the first activities for the year was working together to create our class charter. Students discussed how they can support one another and help create a classroom environment that reflects our school values of being Safe, Kind, and Curious. It was great to see students sharing their ideas about how they can look after each other, show respect, and approach their learning with curiosity throughout the year.

In English, students have been enjoying reading *Tales from Outer Suburbia* by Shaun Tan. The unique stories and illustrations have sparked some great discussions, and students have been engaging thoughtfully with the strange, imaginative, and sometimes mysterious world of the book.

A highlight of the start of the year was our recent excursion to Funfields Themepark. The day was filled with excitement, laughter, and plenty of memorable moments. Students had a fantastic time enjoying the rides and water attractions, and it was great to see them supporting one another and making the most of the experience.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, filled with learning, creativity, and many more positive experiences for our students. Josh and Sarah are also looking forward to meeting with parents and carers at the upcoming ILP meetings and continuing to work together to support each student's learning and wellbeing.

# ROOM FOUR

## Kyleigh, Claire and Grant

It has been a busy start to the year in room 4. With us finally being able to welcome our new teacher Grant Abbott into the space. Grant comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and a fabulous attitude to learning and teaching. Ky will continue to work with Grant while he settles in and gets to know the students. Claire is still the Wellbeing support in the space.

We would also really like to thank John! John helped out in room 4 while we were looking for a new teacher. John always shows so much care and support for all of the students we love it when he is in the space.

We are already deep into our VPC studies, where we are working hard on our work readiness skills, identifying and debating issues, looking at shapes and measurement and learning more about our own skills and characteristics. With some students getting ready to participate in Work Experience either later this term or early next term, it really is action stations.

Students are also getting ready for ILP's and have been working with Claire or Ky to set goals and begin planning future pathway opportunities.

We also have a large number of students who have begun their VETDSS studies at Tafe. This is a great opportunity and it has been exciting to see so many of our young people challenge themselves and move into a new environment.

The room 4 team is looking forward to working with all of the students and their families for 2026.

# Child Safety Standards

A key aspect of work for all schools in Victoria is to meet guidelines to make sure we keep all of our students as safe as possible all of the time. These guidelines have been clearly defined by the Victorian Government through the 'Child Safe Standards'.

Doxa School Bendigo takes this obligation very seriously and we continue to spend lots of time reviewing our practices to make sure we provide the safest and most nurturing environment possible. This includes using the key child safe principles adapted from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) publication 'Catholic Schools, Child Safe Schools' of:

1. Having as our primary concern the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making.

2. Empowering families, children, young people and staff to raise concerns. Schools, in partnership with families, will ensure children and young people are active participants in making decisions, particularly for decisions that may have an impact on their safety.

3. Careful planning and effective practices. Schools will continually identify any risks to children's safety and aim to reduce/eliminate them wherever possible. Schools will also have open and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

Throughout the year, we will continue to provide further information to students, parents/ carers/families and the community about the ways we can all contribute to making our school the safest place it can be. These include through things like our school expectations of being safe, kind and curious at all times, or through our Positive Behaviour Support Policy. If you have questions about the Child Safe Standards, please feel free to get in touch with our Senior Child Safe Officers - Vanessa Brown (Principal) or Nick Grainger (Wellbeing) - to discuss.

Further information is also available on the Doxa School Bendigo website, via the Catholic Education Authority website [www.vcea.catholic.edu.au/child-safety/](http://www.vcea.catholic.edu.au/child-safety/) The Victoria Department of Education website [www.education.vic.edu.au](http://www.education.vic.edu.au).



## Being Active Everyday

### Aim for 30 minutes of active movement.

Being active has many physical, social and emotional benefits, and everyone can benefit from movement throughout the day.

Finding it hard to fit in 30 mins at one time? Try two 15 min sessions or three 10 min sessions! You can also build up from shorter sessions to longer ones!

Find resources and information below:



**HLC - Geocaching &  
other activities**



**Bendigo Cycling &  
Walking Trails**



**Get Active Vic**

### What are the benefits?

- Time spent with friends and family
- Assists with emotional regulation
- Improved confidence
- Lower stress and anxiety
- Healthy growth & development
- Lowered risk of disease

### Tips:

- Sports such as football or netball.
- Bike or scooter riding
- Swimming
- Dancing in the house
- Yoga
- Walking to/from school
- Walking the dog
- Helping with chores around the house
- Make it a family activity!





## Nutritious Lunch Tips For Parents

### Aim for 2 fruits & 5 veg every day!

Eating a variety of foods from the 5 food groups fuels children's brains to help them stay on task and support their growth.

It's recommended that we eat 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of veg everyday but we all eat differently every day, so provide options to your family where you can.

Find resources and information below:



**BCBS Healthy Eating  
Handbook**

**Nutrition & Lunchbox  
Resources**



### What does a serve look like?

#### Fruit

- 1 apple
- 1 large slice of watermelon
- Handful of grapes
- 2 plums

#### Veg

- 1 tomato
- Half a cob of corn
- Half a capsicum
- Handful of carrot slices

#### Tips:

- Plan your weekly meals ahead
- Shop seasonal fruits & veg
- Opt for local or home brand products
- Canned & frozen fruit and veg are just as good
- Have the kids help in the kitchen with easy tasks.



[www.bchs.com.au](http://www.bchs.com.au)



## Trash Puppets is coming to your School and we need your help!

On Wednesday 25th March, students at Doxa School are participating in a Trash Puppets workshop.

At Trash Puppets our aim is to educate adults and children alike on the concepts of sustainability with particular focus on waste reduction. We do this through creative puppet making workshops where imaginations are expanded and where play is key.

The materials used to make Trash Puppets are 100% recycled and reused. For your child to get the most out of this experience, we encourage parents and children to collect their own 'Trash Puppets bag' of clean recyclables at home for use in the workshop. Please drop your bag(s) of 'trash' at school, in an area specified by your teacher, prior to the day of the workshop.

**\*\* We ask that each child only bring one small bag of trash to school prior to the workshop days, about the size of a green canvas bag from Woolworths.**

Here's the kinds of (clean) materials we can accept:

- ✓ Cardboard e.g. small boxes, egg cartons, paper towel rolls.
- ✓ Plastic bottles e.g. coke bottles, shampoo bottles (washed, with LIDS OFF).
- ✓ Plastic bottle caps
- ✓ Plastic tubs e.g. strawberry container, ice cream tub (washed please).
- ✓ Plastic bags e.g. supermarket bags, bubble wrap, bread bags.
- ✓ Paper bags e.g. retail bags, grocery bags.
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Picnicware e.g. paper plates, plastic spoons, plastic cups.
- ✓ Bits and bobs e.g. buttons, yarn, old wrapping paper.

And, the types of materials we DON'T want.

- X Toilet rolls.
- X Milk Bottles.
- X Tins or any sharp metal including metal bottle tops/caps.
- X Glass, including all glass jars and bottles
- X Anything with alcohol or drug branding, eg. panadol boxes, beer cartons etc.
- X Cartons that we can't see into eg. tetra pack juice boxes, milk cartons, stock cartons .
- X Polystyrene in any form e.g. cups, packaging, beads etc.
- X Fabric scraps
- X Magazines
- X Medium-large boxes (an adult size shoe box is too big)
- X Brand new/ unused items specially purchased for this workshop.
- X Craft supplies, such as pom poms, pipe cleaners etc

## Important notes:

1. Please **don't** go out and buy anything! The message of our workshops are about reducing waste!
2. Only collect what you have at home in your recycling bin or in your "TRASH".
3. Make sure **EVERYTHING** you donate is **CLEANED** and **DRY** (please and thank you!)
4. We are dedicated to quality control. Your donations are sorted by our team before the workshop to make sure everything is clean and safe.

## Parent's FAQs:

### Why do I supply the recyclables for this workshop?

Home-sourced recyclables form a core part of our 'recycle and reduce' experience. By collecting materials for the workshop together, your child gains a more holistic understanding of their own impact on the Earth (through what's being thrown away at home) and of their personal part to play in sustainability (through recycling, reducing, and reusing). We suggest starting a collection bag separate to your normal recycling bin. By building your bag of interesting materials together over the week you can share conversations about waste reduction in your own home whilst getting the creative juices started.

### What happens to the materials I supply?

The items you collect will be sorted by our facilitators ahead of the workshop to ensure everything is clean, safe and appropriate for use. Everything supplied goes into a communal pile for the whole group to access. This becomes the place to source parts for their puppets throughout the workshop. Through the 'trash pile' kids get a great tactile experience, plus the joy of 'using what you have' and rummaging for inspiration. The trash pile creates a little joyful chaos and it's often a highlight of our workshops because we encourage the children to make a mess!

### What if my child has allergies?

If your child has severe allergies we would advise discussing this incursion with your classroom teachers. We often suggest that parents supply their own 'allergy-free' collection of materials which would be held separate for your child. Unfortunately given the nature of working with repurposed materials, we cannot guarantee that the general collection will be allergy safe. If you are particularly concerned, we would encourage you to attend and participate in the workshop alongside your child.

### What kind of puppet can I expect to see from my child after the workshop?

Part of our mission at Trash Puppets is to offer positive creative experiences for people of all ages. Our workshops teach participants the basics of puppetry and offer guidance on construction, mechanisms, and performance. With this foundation we support participants to bring their own vision to life in whatever form they have imagined. We aim to have every student leave with a working puppet. However, since it is an open creative task (and we have limited time) we can't promise your child's puppet will arrive home looking the way an adult thinks a puppet should look. We strive to find something good in everything that each participant creates and we encourage parents to do the same.

### What else is my child gaining from this activity?

Our workshops:

- encourage creative, reflective, and critical thinking,
- get students solving complex supply and design problems,
- offer opportunities to plan, experiment, take risks, and question,
- impart meaningful puppetry knowledge, puppet-making technique,
- give tangible experience of core sustainability principles, & build confidence in personal expression.



# PLAY SOCCER WITH US IN 2026



Come & join Epsom Football Club! Anyone aged 4yrs+ can play! Whether you're new to soccer or a seasoned player, you'll find a safe, friendly and welcoming environment.

## **Our Expression of Interest form is now open**

Complete our short form (link below or scan QR code) to get early access to all 2026 club info, from our Club Open Day, to registrations and training dates.



<https://forms.office.com/r/5UmDcRuSmd>

**Ages 4 yrs & above**

**Non-competitive teams  
from Under 6 to Under 10**

**No experience  
necessary**

**Competitive teams from  
Under 12 to Under 16**

**Mixed & all-girls  
teams available**

**Youth (16-18yrs), Mens &  
Women's teams**

Contact [secretary@epsomfc.com.au](mailto:secretary@epsomfc.com.au) or  
[juniors@epsomfc.com.au](mailto:juniors@epsomfc.com.au) for more information

[www.epsomfc.com.au](http://www.epsomfc.com.au)



# Cafe

Next Term Doxa Cafe will be opened:

Every Tuesday between 9.30am and 11.00am

Coffee \$5.00 - Slices \$2.50

**“**  
**are-able has been incredibly supportive in helping me find my path. The opportunities they provided allowed me to gain the skills I needed to succeed in a café environment.**  
**”**  
- Sky, Finding and Keeping a Job participant

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# Other Reminders and Updates

## CLOTHING:

A gentle reminder to all that we do require students to wear clothing that is appropriate for all school activities.

Please ensure that your child is wearing closed in toe shoes and sun smart clothing.

## FACEBOOK:

Please join our school Facebook page to be informed and updated on message, outings, all other fun thing the school get up to.

## ABSENCE:

If your child is absent from, has an appointment or needs to leave early from school please contact the office on 5442 8140 or 0417 108 870

## ANAPHYLAXIS AND ASTHMA PLANS:

At the beginning of each school year we require an updated Anaphylaxis and Asthma Plan for all students that have this diagnosis. Updated plans need to be dropped into the office ASAP. Please check the date on any medication which is kept at school and supply the EpiPen and Inhaler etc., if required. Parents are reminded that we require each student to have their own spacer due to health regulations. Thanks for your assistance with this.

## FOUND

A ring has been found. If you have lost one please see Deb .