

# NEWSLETTER

Friday the 29th of May 2020



## Important Dates

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Queen's Birthday – Public holiday  
no school

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

Year 3-6 Return to school

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

2021 Foundation Information  
session (Via Webex)

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Last day of Term 2

## Bank Details

Commonwealth Bank

Footscray Primary School

BSB: 063 132

Account: 10090179

Please include a reference with  
the student(s)' name.

EFTPOS available at the office



## Thank you – Return to School

Oh, how lovely it has been to have children back learning and playing in the buildings and grounds. The Foundation to Year 2 teachers have designed a transition to school program that involves daily outdoor activities and a focus on wellbeing and reconnection. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming back our Year 3-6 students on Tuesday, June 9.

We would like to thank you all for following the guidelines and minimising your time on the school grounds. Most people have opted to safely drop students near the gates to walk in independently, and others are walking their children to meeting areas and promptly making their way out. Many schools have opted to have no access to the school grounds for parents. We are glad we have not had to implement that approach and that our parent community are respecting the strict protocols for keeping our school safe. Where possible, we ask that you keep office enquiries to email and phone rather than physically attending on site.

## Happy Retirement, Bich!

I would like to share the news that our wonderful support staff member, Bich Ngo, has decided to retire from the Department of Education and Training. Bich has worked at Footscray Primary School for an incredible 34 years and has provided language and learning support to a countless number of students, teachers and families in this time. In the short time I have had the pleasure of working with Bich I have witnessed her unwavering dedication to the school and its community. We are so sad that Bich won't be working at FPS any longer, but we are also happy for her to be moving into a new life phase to spend more time looking after herself and spending time with her family. It is a difficult time for us to properly thank and farewell Bich as we are not yet able to gather. We would like to invite you all to join us when we can safely do so to say thank you to Bich for her 34 years of service to our school and community. Until then, we wish Bich all the very best!

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LEARNING FOR LIVING

## Language Learning

Thank you to all those who attended our Language Learning community meeting on Monday. I have attached a full report covering the information that was shared on the night. It is lengthy, but please take the time to read – We are really excited about the pathways we are creating for language learning at FPS.

## Community Gate

We have unlocked the gate on the corner of Catherine St and Commercial Rd and will be leaving this unlocked for community access. We encourage all members of our community to use the gate when accessing the grounds out of school hours, rather than the 'hole in the fence'. The hole is a significant safety risk that we have spent money repairing multiple times this year. Whilst we are confident that our school community members are not making the hole, we do ask that you refrain from entering or exiting the grounds in this way. Thank you!

## Canteen

The Canteen is unable to operate before and after school to minimise adults on the grounds. We ask that you continue to support Vinh as a valued member of our community through lunch orders for your children. You can order online at <https://fpscanteen.com.au/> or send a paper bag with payment and order with your child. Thank you for your support.

## Edwardian Update

A few very old, rusted gutters were the culprits for our leaks and water damage in the Edwardian. The roof has now been repaired and a hygienist has cleared the internal building of any mould or damp. The removed floorboards will be replaced and new carpet laid next week just in time for our senior students to return to on site learning.

## Foundation 2021

We are holding a virtual information session for prospective 2021 Foundation families on June 10 via webex. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about starting school at FPS please contact the office to register. If you have a child starting with us next year you can complete and return enrolment forms now.

## Returning iPads – Foundation to Year 2

All iPads loaned to Foundation to Year 2 students during remote learning were due back to school this week as per the compass post. Please ensure these are returned to the office with the charging cable on Monday.

## Community Pantry

We are aware that members of our school community are experiencing unexpected financial hardship due to COVID19. We will be establishing a community pantry in the Bluestone for those who may need a little extra help with essential items to take freely as needed. If you are in a position to donate, please send items with your child to minimise adults on site. Thank you in advance. We know our awesome FPS community always rally strong for those in need.

If you are able, please donate essential food and toiletry items for members of our school community experiencing hardship.



## FPS COMMUNITY PANTRY

Please send any donations to school with your children to add to classroom collections and minimise adults on site.

## FPS Social Club

What a crazy term we've all had! It's been so wonderful to see the Foundation, Grade 1 and 2 kids return to School this week and it will be even better when ALL our friends are back in June!

I wanted to start by saying a MASSIVE thank you to all our teachers who did such an incredible job of pivoting to online teaching so quickly and efficiently - you guys did an amazing thing.

Thank you to all the families who picked up their Colour Run prizes during the shutdown. For anyone who couldn't make it, the remaining prizes have been packed into class groups for teachers to give out when they have the chance. If you've pledged a cash donation, it would be much appreciated if you could pay via a direct deposit to the School's account - email us at [footscrayprimarysocial@gmail.com](mailto:footscrayprimarysocial@gmail.com) if you have any queries.

We will be running the Colour Run event when it is safe to get together as a whole school community again. Stay tuned!

For everyone who has submitted recipes for the cookbook, thank you! We've had some wonderful submissions so far - we will be working to pull the cookbook together later in the year.

The Social Club has a few other exciting ideas and projects in the works - we look forward to sharing them with you soon. If you're interested in getting involved, or want to join the Club, please get in touch. As a member of the FPS Social Club you might:

- Work to connect School families, staff and other local groups and businesses.
- Assist with events and projects that support our school and its local community.
- Contribute ideas and expertise to initiatives, activities and events.
- Attend semi-regular (and fun) meetings.
- Connect with other amazing parents and carers from our school community.

Everyone is welcome and we'd love to hear from you: [footscrayprimarysocial@gmail.com](mailto:footscrayprimarysocial@gmail.com)

All the best,  
Zoë Allnutt  
FPS Social Club President

## Dental Van

As you would all know we had to postpone a few things we had booked in for term 2, the dental van was one of them, we have been in contact with the dentist and we will have a new date booked in shortly. Once we know the date we will let all families know.



## Grade 6 Transition Applications

If you have a child currently in grade 6 they need to fill out an application form with a preference as to what high school your child will be attending in 2021. These forms are to be returned 29<sup>th</sup> May. If your child will be attending a catholic or independent school you will still need to fill out the application form.

## Updating contact details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details can you please let the office staff know, you can email [Footscray.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Footscray.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or phone 9687 1910.

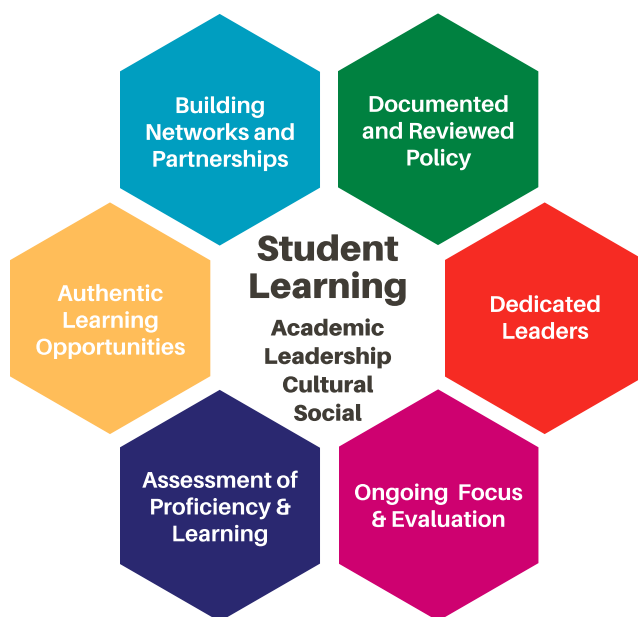


## Language Learning at Footscray Primary School

Jen Briggs – Principal

May 2020

Thank you to those who joined us at the virtual community meeting on Monday evening where we launched our vision for language learning at Footscray Primary School. It is difficult to encapsulate a one-hour presentation in words so I will summarise the key points below to accompany the presentation slides which are available on compass. If you ever find that a compass post you are searching for has expired, our office staff are always more than happy to assist.



# Language Learning

## Learning for Living

The image above illustrates the multi-faceted approach that we will take to make Footscray PS a school of excellence in language learning. Along with introducing a bilingual model grounded in evidence of best practice, we are also enhancing our Vietnamese LOTE program to provide a high-quality language learning experience for every child at Footscray Primary. This framework is the beginning of our journey – not the end - it will be strengthened by our students, our staff, and our community as we move forward together.

Some of the key features of the above vision include;

- A LOTE language leader and a bilingual language leader appointed to design, promote and evaluate the language programs and keep a feedback loop between students, staff, community and school leadership.
- A co-developed language policy with the voice of students, staff and community.
- Strong relationships with professional networks, local kinders and schools, language schools, community members and organisations and between home and school.
- Time and resources invested to identify and provide authentic partnership opportunities for students to use language and explore culture and community
- Development of learning continuums and aligned assessments to monitor and extend of student language learning
- Ongoing focus on language learning through the School Strategic Plan goals and targets and strategic alignment and ongoing review of human, financial, and physical resources

## **Models of Language Learning**

### **Vietnamese LOTE**

Current students at FPS will continue to learn Vietnamese for two hours each week. One of these sessions will be pure language learning and the second will combine language and content learning through an innovative dual teaching approach with another specialist area. This teaching approach is well-evidenced and known as Content and Language Integrated Learning.

### **Bilingual Program**

100% of 2021 Foundation students will learn 50% of their curriculum through the adopted target language and 50% in English. Students will have two teachers and two classrooms – one for speaking, listening and learning in English, and one of speaking, listening and learning in the target language. We will determine which curriculum areas are taught in the target language once we have selected the language.

### **Specialist Subjects**

In 2021, all year levels will continue with specialist programs in Physical Education and Art. Our current students will also continue with Vietnamese LOTE. This creates an opportunity to introduce another specialist area for all students. Later in the year, we will seek the community response to expand our current music program (half an hour a week for two terms) to a full one hour a week music program for Foundation to Year 6. We will also seek community opinion on the fourth specialist area for the bilingual program with an option to continue the Vietnamese LOTE program alongside the bilingual program for this cohort.

# LANGUAGE LEARNING

**LOTE**

**Bilingual**

Visual Art

Physical Education (PE)

Other TBC

**LOTE**

**LOTE/OTHER TBC**

## Additional Questions from the Community

*Q. What if I am zoned to Footscray Primary School and do not wish my child to attend a bilingual school?*

A. The Department of Education sets the school zones to ensure all children can access their local school. We will likely experience the reverse of this also, where people from outside of our zone would like to attend our school for the Bilingual program. We will work with DET and our local school network to support our community as best we can.

*Q. Are the benefits of learning maths in a language with clearer place value translations like in some Asian languages being considered? i.e., ten-one for eleven*

A. Some languages have number-naming conventions that provide a clear understanding of the number's value. For example, the number name 'eleven' gives no indication that the number is made up of 1 ten and 1 one. It would be much more helpful if the number name was 'One-ty One'. Some languages around the world do have number names aligned with the value of the number. This is one reason why we will wait to determine the curriculum areas for the target language until we have selected the target language.

*Q. How will the school recruit teachers they can be confident are not just qualified LOTE teachers but capable of teaching in a bilingual program based on numbers of just language teachers?*

A. We will create a long-term recruitment plan that will involve networks and partnerships with local, national and international groups and organisations. We will access grants and programs made available by DET for commonly taught languages and work with the universities to create pathways for education students who speak our target language to complete placements at FPS and widen the future recruitment pool. Recruitment is an ongoing challenge for bilingual schools, however, strategic planning and networking will ensure we can fully staff a sustainable, high quality language program.

*Q. Is there an option for the current Foundation cohort to become a bilingual cohort as well as next year's Foundation students?*

A. Yes, there is a possibility that we could include the current Foundation students in the bilingual program. This will be dependent on many variables, including community interest, enrolment numbers for Foundation and recruitment.

*Q. Is the Vietnamese study tour still going to happen?*

A. The partnership with our sister school and the study tour for our Year 5/6 students is a highly valued, incredible opportunity for our students. We see no reason why we would need to change this partnership or experience. The only possible impact to the 2021 study tour would be any remaining restrictions to travel due to COVID19 health concerns.

*Q. Is it possible for the LOTE cohorts to have some exposure to the bilingual language to help the kids connect or could the new language culture be incorporated through the IB curriculum?*

A. This is definitely a priority to ensure cohesion within our school community and student groups. Our two language leaders will work hard to develop programs for students and families to learn basics in both the target language and Vietnamese.

*Q. How will the school support students with additional needs in the bilingual program?*

A. There are many ways that we will be able to provide support for children with additional needs including the use of language assistants, differentiated tasks, use of visual aids and English language prompts, and providing additional time to complete set tasks. We will learn from other bilingual schools also to ensure we are considering all avenues of support for all children.



Q. Will the Vietnamese LOTE eventually be phased out?

A. At Footscray PS, classroom teachers have 4 hours each week of non-face-to-face time where they are released by specialist teachers. Two of these hours will be Art and PE. We will seek community interest to determine the specialist areas for the remaining two hours. If there is interest, Vietnamese LOTE could definitely run alongside the bilingual program into the future.

### Selecting the Target Language for Bilingual

As shown below, we have a broad timeline for consultation that consists of three major phases. The first phase is to build comprehensive profiles for each of the most commonly taught languages; Chinese-Mandarin, French, Indonesian, Italian and Japanese. This work will be done by the bilingual subcommittee and then shared with our staff, students, current and prospective families prior to seeking your voice on which language is preferred. We will also invite knowledgeable others such as Principals from other bilingual schools and respected academics and experts in bilingual education to inform us of the benefits of bilingualism.

Once we have shared knowledge, we will create ways to seek community opinion as widely and inclusively as possible to determine which language will provide the most successful, sustainable bilingual program for the students of FPS. The subcommittee will collate the data and present a recommendation to the School Council who will vote on the target language. This will be communicated promptly so we can begin our next important and exciting phase of building the program.

