

"ACHIEVING TOGETHER"



Woady Yaloak Primary School

Website: www.woadyyaloak.vic.edu.au
 Email: woady.yaloak.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Principal: **Corey Pohlner**
 Phone: 5342 8565

- 2025 Term Dates**
- 28th Jan - 4th April
 - 22nd Apr - 4th July
 - 21st July - 19th Sept
 - 4th Oct - 19th Dec

Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565
Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514

Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274
Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478

FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 9th**
 • Statewide Transition Day
- Thursday 11th**
 • Year 6 Graduation
- Wednesday 17th**
 • Senior Bike Ride
- Thursday 18th**
 • Reports go home
- Friday 19th**
 • **Term 4 Finishes - 1.30pm PICK UP**
- JANUARY 2026**
- Wednesday 28th**
 • Grades 1-6 Start
- Thursday 29th**
 • Foundation Students Start

PERMISSION FORMS AND MONEY DUE:

DECEMBER 2025

- Due TOMORROW**
- Movie Day Consent and Payment **DUE**
 - Gr 6 Graduation Lunch Consent and Payment **DUE**
- Due WED 10th**
- Senior Bike Ride Consent and Payment **DUE**



Woady Yaloak Primary School was formed on the lands of the Wadawarrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the First Nations people throughout Victoria.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of the 2025 school year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their incredible dedication and support throughout the year. It's been a year filled with many achievements, and I am proud of the growth and resilience our students have shown at all our campuses.

I'm currently on three weeks of leave. During this time, Eamon Johnson will be stepping in as Acting Principal. I thank Eamon for his leadership and support in this role.



I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our parents on the School Council and everyone who generously volunteers their time for our Parents and Friends Associations. Our fundraisers play an essential role in supporting our school community by allowing us to purchase valuable activities and resources for our students. For example, the recent fundraiser at our Smythesdale campus helped build a new Ga Ga pit, creating a wonderful new upgraded play space for the students. Our Colour Run also enabled us to upgrade our Chromebooks for 2026, with 200 new devices purchased for students in grades 2 to 6. Earlier this year, we were also able to upgrade the iPads used by our students from Foundation to Grade 1.



We are currently updating our whole school website. We hope to advise that the website has gone live in our final whole school newsletter in week 11.



Thank you all once again for your continued support, positivity, and commitment throughout 2025. I wish you a strong finish to the year and hope you enjoy a well-deserved and restful break.

REVIEW OF LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT WOADY YALOAK

I am pleased to share that we received over 70 responses to the community language survey distributed throughout the community over the past month. Combined with more than 50 staff responses and 300 student responses, this has provided a significant amount of data to inform the future directions of the review.

Continued over page....

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Cont....

Due to the extensive volume of comments, a full summary of the survey findings is still being finalised. However, I am able to provide the community with a snapshot of some of the key questions posed to each stakeholder group.

STUDENT SURVEY

1. Do you enjoy learning a second language (Japanese) at our school?

[More Details](#)

● Yes, a lot	105
● It's okay	106
● Not really	64



2. How interested are you in learning Auslan (Australian Sign Language)?

[More Details](#)

● Very interested	95
● Somewhat interested	62
● Not interested	74
● Not sure	46



STAFF SURVEY

1. How valuable do you think it is for students to learn a second language at school?

[More Details](#)

● Very valuable	22
● Somewhat valuable	17
● Not valuable	2
● Unsure	1



2. We are considering introducing Auslan (Australian Sign Language) to replace our Japanese program. How interested are you in this idea?

[More Details](#)

● Very interested	25
● Somewhat interested	9
● Not interested	7
● Not sure	1



COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. How valuable do you think it is for students to learn a second language at school?

[More Details](#)

Very valuable	37
Somewhat valuable	26
Not valuable	8
Unsure	0



2. We are considering introducing Auslan (Australian Sign Language) to replace our Japanese program. How interested are you in this idea?

[More Details](#)

Very interested	59
Somewhat interested	5
Not interested	7
Not sure	1



The results of the survey have been shared with both school staff and School Council. The data above, along with the written feedback, provides clear evidence that key stakeholders within our school are interested in exploring what a transition to AUSLAN as our language program may look like.

There is still much to consider, including identifying a high-quality program, ensuring appropriate resourcing, securing access to qualified teachers, and confirming that the necessary curriculum planning is in place. These considerations will be explored further in Term 1, 2026.

As previously communicated, Japanese will continue to be the language taught at Woody Yaloak Primary School while we investigate the feasibility of implementing an AUSLAN program.

OSHC UPDATE

I am pleased to confirm that arrangements have progressed for our Adventure OSHC services at the Snake Valley and Ross Creek campuses. Contracts are currently in the process of being signed, and planning is underway to ensure these services are ready to operate from Term 1, 2026.



Unfortunately, despite continued efforts behind the scenes, I am still unable to provide positive news regarding the Scarsdale and Smythesdale services. This means they will not be in operation at the beginning of the year. I want to reiterate that work will continue in an effort to reintroduce these services at a later date.

Once contracts are finalised and other organisational requirements are completed, flyers containing enrolment information will be distributed.

Regards

Corey Pehlner

Principal

Woody Yaloak Primary School





Social Media Age Restrictions for Families

24/11/2025

What is happening, when and why?

From **10 December 2025**, social media platforms must take reasonable steps to deactivate social media accounts held by children under 16 and prevent new accounts. A "social media platform" is one that enables social connection and user interaction.

The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 introduced these restrictions to delay exposure to social media risks and to allow time for digital literacy and maturity.

Which platforms are affected?

As of November 2025, the following platforms are included:

- Facebook • Instagram • Snapchat • TikTok • X (formerly Twitter)
- YouTube • Threads • Reddit • Kick • Twitch

This list is subject to review. Platforms may be added or removed over time. Children under 16 can still use **YouTube Kids** and view regular **YouTube** without logging in (with limited functionality).

Will children under 16 break the law if they continue using social media?

No. Children, parents, carers, and teachers will not face penalties. Platforms are responsible for enforcement and may face fines if they fail to comply.

What about existing content?

Platforms may deactivate accounts for users under 16 instead of deleting them, but this is not guaranteed. Encourage your child to download any data they want to keep (such as posts, chats, photos, and videos) before December 10.

Can under-16s bypass the limit?

No system is perfect, and some children under 16 may try to bypass age restrictions, similar to other age restricted activities. Platforms must take steps to prevent this, including blocking fake IDs, AI tools, deepfakes, and VPNs that disguise location.



Social Media Age Restrictions for Families

24/11/2025

How will age be checked?

Each platform will choose its own methods for age checks, guided by eSafety's regulatory advice and international best practices.

Platforms must follow the Online Safety Act and Privacy Act when handling personal information, and they cannot force Australians to use government-issued IDs – reasonable alternatives must be offered.

They should also have processes to fix mistakes, allow reporting of underage accounts, and provide reviews if someone is wrongly restricted.

How can I support my child?

- Explain what is happening and reassure children they are not breaking the law.
- Help them reflect on what they enjoy online and find alternatives.
- Be aware some may turn to gaming, messaging apps, or AI chatbots – check ratings, privacy settings, and risks.
- Report any cyber bullying to the platform or [eSafety](#). For further support, consult a healthcare provider, [Kids Helpline](#), [Dolly's Dream Support Line](#), or a [parent helpline](#).

For more information visit: www.esafety.gov.au