



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



1536 Burwood Highway,

Tecoma VIC 3160

Tel: 9754 2354

Email: tecoma.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.tecomaps.vic.edu.au

Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

1st February, 2024

DATES TO REMEMBER:

FEBRUARY

Friday 2nd
Preps Full Day

Monday 5th
Grade 6 Leadership
Badges & Bomber
Jackets
Presentation
9.00am

Wednesday 7th
Prep Assessments
No Prep Classes

Swimming lessons
Grades 1/2



Tuesday 13th
Welcome Picnic
Preps, Buddies &
New Families
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 14th
Prep Assessments
No Prep Classes

Swimming lessons
Grades 1/2

Friday 16th
District Swimming
Belgrave Pool
Select Students

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK

As a new school year is upon us I would like to start by welcoming everyone back to school for 2024 and in particular, I'd like to welcome our Preps and new students to the school. The sense of excitement is always palpable, and it was lovely to see Prep classrooms packed with families making the most of what will no doubt be a treasured memory. Hopefully our families made the most of the holiday break and our students are refreshed and ready to learn.

DAY 1

The first day of the school year was a great success, with students from 1-6 settling in exceptionally well and then the Prep children starting today. I would like to thank the staff for making the students feel so at ease, but also acknowledge the work that was put in last year during the transition program. Our students have hit the ground running, which is exactly what we were hoping for! It was also wonderful to see so many parents in and around the school and we hope that this continues! As the week has unfolded, it is already business as usual, and the students are getting on with learning!

WORKS AROUND THE SCHOOL

A lot has happened since the children were last on site.

Through fundraising from last year, including the color run, we have been able to put funds raised towards the following:

- the entry and main corridor of the grade three to six building has been repainted
- new netball/basketball rings and backboards, including four nets, have been installed (a huge thanks to parents Steve Gray and Nathan Amoroso for installing these)
- new monkey bars are on their way for the Grade 3 - 6 playground, as is new aluminium outdoor furniture for under the outdoor learning space, under the shade sails.

The old mural, created by children of TPS that was situated on the Salvation Army wall, is being installed in the Prep - 2 playground, to create a visual barrier from Burwood Hwy, but also taking away some of the traffic noise.



Unfortunately, we have had some electrical issues with lights on one side of the grade 1/2 building not operating (Electricians were on site at 7.00am yesterday rectifying the problem) while an air conditioner in a Grade 3/4 room decided it didn't want to function again. A massive thank you to all the parents who attended Monday night's Working Bee, where many jobs were completed, including installing blinds, moving 9 metres of sand into the sand pit, cleaning out old rainwater pits that had not been cleared for years, sweeping, and tidying up. We are most appreciative of the support that we receive from our parent community in having the school looking ship-shape for the children when they arrived yesterday. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We were hopeful that the retaining wall and footpath works around our car park would have been completed by the start of the school year, however it looks like it may continue for a little while longer, so we urge families to be cautious around these works until they are complete.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications will predominantly flow through COMPASS as the first port of call, so I encourage families to make sure they have this app. In terms of student learning, teaching teams will be continuing to use Seesaw Prep-2 and Google Classroom Grades 3-6 in 2024.



“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHILD” INTERVIEWS

“Getting to know your child” interviews will be held on Monday February 19 from 1:00pm to 6.00pm.

The purpose of these interviews is twofold. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to:

⇒ *Meet their child's teacher to begin an effective home/school partnership.*

⇒ *Provide information to teachers regarding their child's strengths, talents, issues, or concerns.*

Information shared by parents to teachers will assist us to plan for and work as effectively as possible with you and your child throughout the year. Interviews will be 10 minutes in length.

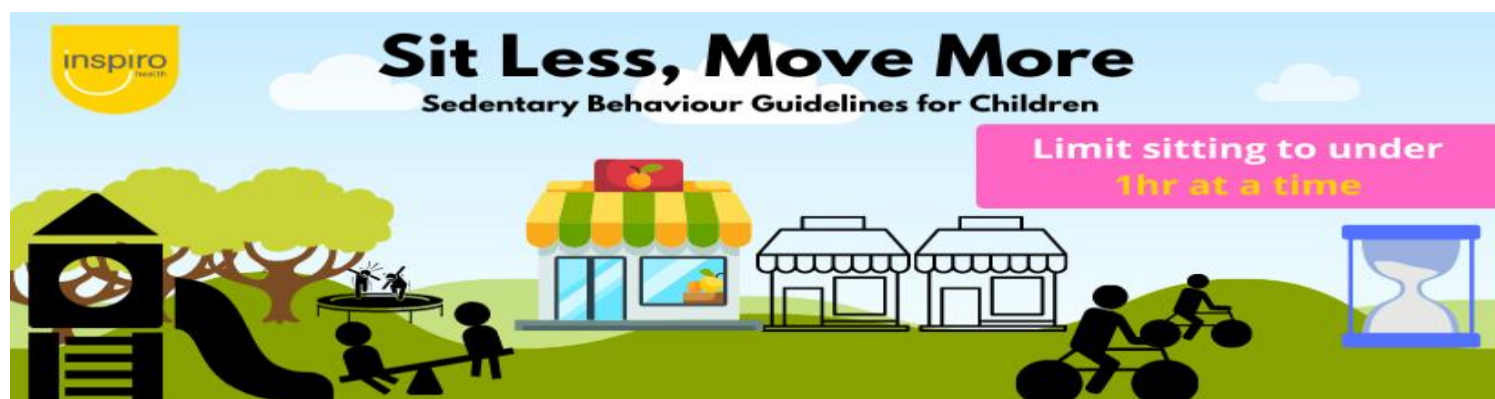
The school will set up a process where parents are required to book a time online to see a teacher. It is not compulsory to meet your teacher about your child at this stage of the year, but we would certainly like to have met you all; however if a teacher specifically wishes to see certain parents, they will ask for this to occur.

CHANGE OF ASSEMBLY TIME

Last year as a staff, we opened a discussion around the timing of our assemblies. In my time here, assemblies have always been at 9:00am on a Monday morning, which has worked well as it sets up the week. Why that time of the week? Probably because that is the way it has always been done. Assembly has been the time where we hand out our “Student of the Week” recognition awards and discuss the week ahead.

In these discussions, we talked about whether this was the best use of time, considering that the children are losing 30 minutes of their literacy block time each week, at a time when they are most likely to be at their most alert and is their prime learning time.

We discussed this with School Council and at Parent Network to get their views.



Considering what we think is our core business and that is to maximize every opportunity of learning time, we have decided to move assemblies to Friday afternoons at 3.00pm. The format won't change, in that we will have the children still receiving their awards and they will be able to hand their certificates to their parents as they leave to head off for the weekend break.

Parents will still be informed that their child has received a Student of the Week but these will not be handed out until the following Friday, giving the parents 8 days' notice that their child will be presented with their certificate.

Please look out for the weekly notifications to see whether your child is receiving their certificate so that you can make appropriate arrangements to attend.

GRADE 6 BOMBER JACKET and LEADERSHIP BADGES

Now that I have said that we are having our assemblies on Friday afternoons, I am now going to introduce an exception! This Monday morning, we will be presenting, in front of the school community, the Grade 6 bomber jackets and Leadership badges. This will take longer than half an hour so we will run this on Monday morning, as we have in previous years.

It is always a special occasion for the children to receive their leadership badges and Grade 6 bomber jackets/polos, as it signifies the final year of their primary school journey.

We hope you can make it along on Monday, on the top basketball court, for an outdoor assembly, weather permitting.

2024 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS REMINDER

Parent payments help the school to operate effectively. At TPS, we continue to keep our contributions very low, however those additional funds are the difference between providing the additional programs, such as a significant investment in technology, that cannot be delivered without the support of families. We would like to thank the parents that have already made these contributions and strongly encourage all families to do what they can. Parent payment plans are available if families would feel more comfortable paying in instalments. Simply contact our office ladies to arrange a plan.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Information regarding the 2024 School Council election process was sent to families via COMPASS yesterday. I would encourage any interested parent to contact me for more information. School Council is an extremely vital part of the school, and it is from council that we take our direction. Council approves external contracts, provides advice and consent on a range of areas, and oversees school finance. Please look out for this if you think you may be interested in nominating or being nominated. Information includes a timeline and summary of the role of School Council.

PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Once again, we call for interested parents who would like to be a part of the PFA in 2024. Thank you to those who have made contact, but if any other families would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you. Please email tecoma.ps@education.vic.gov.au if you would like to contribute and we can put you in the right direction. A meeting will be arranged for interested parents once we have your responses. We look forward to working with you this year!

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

As in previous years, students should be arriving before 8:57am (when the music starts) so that they can enter their classroom and be ready for learning at 9.00am.

Staff are not on duty until 8:45am and students who enter the school's grounds prior to this are unsupervised and at risk. In previous years we saw a growing number of students entering the grounds as early as 8.00am, without adult supervision. For families where both parents work and therefore need to drop off their children prior to 8:45am, the school provides an Out of School Hours Care program that runs from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

All students arriving after 9.00am must sign in at the office.

Parents are welcome on site at any time. We only ask that parents remain out of the classrooms prior to school starting, as staff prepare for the day ahead. It is also important for students to build their resilience and part of this is entering the rooms on their own (with the exception of Preps in the first week or so).

Any students remaining at school at 3:45pm will be escorted to the office at the front of the school for collection. It is expected that students who are not collected by 3:45pm are registered for out of school hours care, so that they can be placed in care if families cannot collect their children by 3:45pm.

CAR PARKING

Just a reminder about the carparking in and around the surrounding areas of the school. Our school carpark is open in the morning and has a drop off bay outside the hall. If the carpark is full there are spaces available for parents to park on Burwood Hwy, in behind the Salvation Army and Bon-Ton and the church next door. There is a small number of spaces available on McNicol Rd however please be aware parking inspectors were out and about last year booking cars for being parked in the wrong areas.



Our carpark works extremely well in the afternoon when the pickup bay is not used for parking; please only stop in the drop off bay when you see your child waiting there. If you do not see your child there, please do another loop. If your child is at an age where they need assistance to get in the car, carry their bags or need help with seatbelts etc, then please don't use the drop off bay.

It works really well when we all do the right thing.

It ensures the traffic keeps flowing and leads to much less frustration for all road users.

The preschool carpark is for kinder parents only. This is also the case at the Imaging and Audiology Centre on the corner of Burwood Hwy and McNicol Rd due to the Emergency Vehicles (eg Ambulances) that might need access to the premises. Please be respectful that these carparks are not ours and should not be used by our community as such. Thanks for your assistance.



LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders are available on Wednesday and Fridays only at this stage via the QKR app. Orders can be placed from Sushi Express or the Blacksmith in Belgrave.

UP TO DATE DETAILS

If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. Please make sure you notify the office of any changes to your address, your Emergency Contact details, as well as mobile phone numbers. Please also keep the office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children, as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare. Your up-to-date contact information is especially important for us for when we need to contact you in the case of an emergency e.g. bushfire.

LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Parents are reminded that there is a Labour Day Public holiday on Monday 11th March. There will be no school on this day.

ART SMOCKS

To protect clothing, all students are requested to have an Art Smock or old shirt that can be worn during art classes.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)

We encourage and value parental and community support at TPS. There are many ways that parents, grandparents, and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children's Check that will allow you to be very involved in your child's education. These checks are free for volunteers. Once you have your WWCC please come to the office so we can photocopy this, and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWCC check.

STAFFING:

A very warm welcome is extended to our new teachers – Ms Lisa Fleming (Thursday and Friday - 1/2C), Mrs Kate Gardner (3/4B) and Ms Renae Lansdell (5/6C). Please say hello to our new staff members if you see them around the school.

Class structure for 2024

Prep A:	Mr Phillip Darbyshire
Prep C:	Ms Paulina van Elmpt
1/2A:	Miss Tahlia Bye
1/2B	Mrs Deb Langford
1/2C:	Mrs Helen Neal (Mon – Wed) & Ms Lisa Fleming (Thurs & Friday)
1/2D:	Ms Kathy Perushyn
1/2E	Mr. Trevor Wilson
3/4A:	Miss Helen Kesarios
3/4B	Mrs Kate Gardner
3/4C	Mr Stuart Mclean
3/4D	Miss Chelsey Robins
3/4E	Ms Polly Swan
5/6A:	Mrs Monica Griffiths
5/6B:	Mrs Lisa Hoskins-Faul
5/6C	Ms Renae Lansdell
5/6D:	Miss Hayley Ward
5/6E:	Mr Liam Wright

Specialist Programs for 2024

Physical Education:	Mrs Nicole Cumming
Visual Arts:	Mrs Jane McManamon
Performing Arts:	Mrs Sally Connell (Grades 1-6) and Mrs Lauren Abbott (Prep)
Japanese/Science:	Ms Masae Uekusa
Reading Room:	Mrs Di Double
Tutor:	Mrs Cassandra Venten
Librarian:	Ms Jennie Tuvey

Administration

Principal:	Mr Rohan Thompson
Assistant Principal:	Mrs Di Double
Business Manager:	Mrs Karin Hartnell
Office Admin:	Mrs Marnie Martin and Mrs Anthea Cresswell

Education Support Staff (Integration Aides):

Mrs Megan Wilson
Mrs Kath Young
Mrs Rita Senior

Out of School Hours Care Staff

Mrs Adelle Young
Mrs Anne-Marie Dufour
Mrs Rita Senior
Mrs Megan Wilson

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website <https://tecomaps.vic.edu.au/>

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Department of Education (DE) does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. The Department of Education states that reasonable low-cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector. Similarly, DE (which includes the school) does not offer replacement of personal items which are brought to school and are lost, broken, or stolen. Sentimental or expensive belongings and toys, including sports equipment and electronic devices, are normally best left at home.

MOBILE PHONES



Readers of the newsletter would be aware of the introduction of the state-wide policy on Mobile Phones in Victorian Government Schools. All students are required to turn off and hand in mobile phones to prevent usage during school hours. This also extends to smart watches where the call and messaging function can connect to the student's phone. We have electronic safes to secure the devices in for each classroom in the Grade 3-6 areas. Phones will be placed in the safe at the start of the day and handed back at the end of the day. If students in Prep-2 have a mobile phone, this will need to be handed to their classroom teacher or to the school office. School Council has approved our Mobile Phone policy to ensure it is aligned to DE directives. A copy of this policy is available on our website. Please discuss this with your

child/ren to assist us in following this policy. We thank you for your support in this area.

STUDENT SAFETY – BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES @ TECOMA PS

We were told it was going to be a hot, dry summer but to this stage, it has been anything but..... however we may get a late run of hot weather. With that in mind, we need to remind all that we live in the Dandenong Ranges which classifies our school on the 'Bushfire At Risk Register'. It is vital you are aware of the following information:

SCHOOL CLOSURES ON CATASTROPHIC DAYS

Should there be a predicted “*CATASTROPHIC*” day school community members will be notified three days prior to the predicted closure to inform them. One day prior to the closure day(s) another alert, letter/phone call will confirm the closure. If the school is closed, nobody will be on site. This includes all staff and students. As the Out of School Hours Care Program will also be closed families will be required to make alternate arrangements for such days. It is recommended that you enact your fire plans on these days.

Active Fire Procedures:

In the event of an active fire occurring in the area all students will be evacuated to our safer place which is our school hall. Parents will be notified should we ever evacuate to the hall. We ask that you do not come to the school to collect your children, at this time, as the potential for traffic closures and hazards in such conditions could result in tragic consequences as was the case in the Black Saturday fires. Please note that the school's Safer Place is not a community refuge, and we discourage you from using it as a plan of action in your family's emergency management plan. Many parents will choose to enact their family fire plans well before a real threat is faced. This may mean leaving the local area the day before a day of extreme heat and/ or wind. Of course, this decision lies with each family and should mean that your route down the Highway is not blocked or impeded as may be the case if a fire was in the area.



VISITING THE SCHOOL and CHILDREN COLLECTION AT THE END OF THE DAY

A reminder to everyone that we have a policy which requires all visitors to report to the office first when entering the school. Should you need to visit the classroom, see your child at recess or are a helper at school, please report to the office first to sign in. This ensures that in an emergency we can account for all people at school.

If you are having someone collecting your children that is not on your emergency contact list or does not normally pick up your child, can you please let the office know. This is especially important for the junior children, as we release the children from their class for the day.

SUN SMART

During term one, please remember that hats are compulsory at all times when outside at school (including Phys Ed sessions). As a Sunsmart school we strictly enforce the use of hats.



Remember these 5 SunSmart steps during the sun protection times, even if it's cool or cloudy.

1. ***Slip on covering clothing.*** If you can see skin, UV can reach it.
2. ***Slop on SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum sunscreen.*** Apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
3. ***Slap on a sun protective hat.*** The best hat shades the head, face, eyes, ears, and neck. Our school hats comply with Sun Smart regulations.
4. ***Seek shade.*** Shady spaces help block some of the sun's UV but not all so you still need to wear hats, clothing, and sunscreen even in the shade.
5. ***Slide on sunglasses.*** If practical, help protect your child's eyes with sunglasses.

For further information go to: www.sunsmart.com.au

Students who don't have a Sun Smart hat will be directed to play in a designated shade area.

HOT WEATHER

On days of extreme heat, students will remain in their classrooms with all staff sharing the supervision of grades. This will only apply to days of extreme and excessive heat and will operate similarly to the wet day timetable.

We have also been asked to remind our parent community about the dangers of leaving children in cars on very hot days.



Thankyou everyone for a sensational start to the school year. Have a wonderful 2024!

Rohan Thompson
Principal

2024 TERMS DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday	7 February	No School for Prep	'School Entry Assessments' for Foundation/Prep
Tuesday	13 February	Welcome Picnic 5:30-7:30pm	Prep/buddies/new families welcome picnic
Wednesday	14 February	No School for Prep	'School Entry Assessments' for Foundation/Prep
Monday	19 February	1.00-6.00pm	Getting to know you interviews
Wednesday	21 February	No School for Prep	'School Entry Assessments' for Foundation/Prep
Wednesday	28 February	No School for Prep	'School Entry Assessments' for Foundation/Prep
Friday	1 March		Bushwahzee Community Bush Dance
Mon-Fri	4-8 March	Grade 6 camp	Coonawarra
Wednesday	6 March	No School for Prep	'School Entry Assessments' for Foundation/Prep
Monday	11 March	All day	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday	12 March	All day	Preps commence full time schooling
Wed-Fri	March 13-25		NAPLAN Gr 3 and 5
Thursday	28 March	2:00 – 2:30pm	Assembly (Term 1 concludes - early <u>dismissal</u>)
Friday	29 March		Good Friday (in school holidays)
Monday	1 April		Easter Monday (in school holidays)
Monday	15 April	9:00am	<u>Term Two commences</u>
Wednesday	17 April	All Day	School photos
Thursday	25 April		ANZAC Day
Friday	26 April	No school	Pupil free day (Maths)
Monday	10 June		King's Birthday Holiday
Friday	28 June	2:00 – 2:30pm	Assembly (Term 2 concludes - early <u>dismissal</u>)
Monday	15 July	9:00am	<u>Term Three commences</u>
Wed-Fri	14-16 Aug	All day	Grade 5 Urban camp
Wed-Fri	14-16 Aug	All day	Grade 3/4 Forest Edge camp
Friday	20 September	2:00 – 2:30pm	Assembly (Term 3 concludes - early <u>dismissal</u>)
Monday	7 October	9:00am	<u>Term Four commences</u>
Tuesday	5 November		Melbourne Cup Holiday
Thursday	19 December	1:45 – 2:30pm	Assembly (last day of 2024 - early <u>dismissal</u>)

TERM 1 ENROLMENTS OPEN!



FIRST LESSON COMPLIMENTARY &
FREE JUNIOR RACQUET FOR ALL
NEW FULL TERM HOT SHOT ENROLMENTS*

*STRICTLY LIMITED VACANCY, age 5-10 years

Tuesday 30th Jan - Thursday 28th March, 2024

Join us on court...

New players register here...
thetennisinstitute.com.au/sign-up/



BELGRAVE HEIGHTS TENNIS CLUB
82 COLBY DRIVE
BELGRAVE SOUTH
tennisinstitute@icloud.com PH: 0434 700 446

UPWEY-TECOMA TENNIS CLUB
ALEXANDER AVENUE
TECOMA
/thetennisinstitutemelbourne

BELCOMA NETBALL CLUB WE WANT YOU in 2024

Registrations now open for players of
all ages* and skill levels.

- Fun and fitness *min age of 5 to train, 7 to play
- Girls & boys from age 5+ (boys up to age 14).
- Supportive, inclusive, family-friendly club
- Endorsed NetSetGo Development Centre

Interested? Want to know more? send us a
message via our website (simply scan the QR
code below) or socials.



Belcoma Netball Club



@belcomanetballclub



Instrumental Music Lessons

Have you ever wanted to learn a musical instrument or singing?
Tecoma Primary Schools team of instrumental teachers engage with
the music you love, as well as reading and other musical styles.

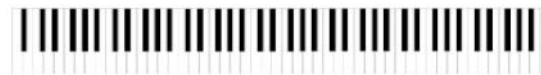
Piano - Drums - Singing - Violin

Groove Foundations Music School

Jordan Scotney - 0408 881 395 - groovefoundations@gmail.com

Guitar - Ukulele

Juan Aravena - 0402 688 836 - juanaravena@hotmail.com



FEB

3. 2024

NETBALL TRYOUTS

MODS/U11 & U13

9:00 - 9:45AM

U15 & U18

10:00 - 10:45AM

U23 & OPEN

11:00 - 11:45AM

KNOX NETBALL CENTRE

7+

ALL AGES AND
SKILL LEVELS

REGISTER
NOW!

WWW.BELCOMANETBALLCLUB.COM.AU

Help needed in your community. Paid positions available now.



Want to give back to the community, and supplement your income?
Become a School Crossing Supervisor.

Multiple positions available, get in touch today
Call: 03 9325 3200
Email: schoolcrossing@hoban.com.au

HOBAN Recruitment

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS...

Mondays: 9.00am—9.30am

**Thursdays: 9.00am—9.30am
&
3.00pm—3.30pm**

If you are unable to visit during these times you can place your orders through the Qkr! App.

Also, feel free to come in for second hand uniform. Cash is preferred for second hand items as this goes towards our chook food and the vegetable garden. Thank you.



Parenting Anxious Adolescents

A Parents Building Solutions Program
for Parents of 10 to 18 year olds

- Learn parenting strategies to support your young person with anxious feelings and behaviors.
- Teach your child the skills of resilience to bounce back from life's challenges
- Improve communication and connection with your tween or teen

When: Mondays (6 evening sessions)
Dates: February 12th to March 25th, 2024 (no session on Labour Day - Mon 11th Mar)
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Where: Online via Zoom.
Cost: Free for parents and carers living in Melbourne's Eastern Region.
Registrations: [Click Here](#).
Enquiries: phone/text Sharon 0438 683 049 or email sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au

Join this interactive 6-week online program to learn strategies, share stories, and take some time out for you

PARENTZONE



Parenting Anxious Children

A Parents Building Solutions Program
for Parents of 2 to 7 year olds

- Learn parenting strategies to help your child deal with anxious feelings and behaviors.
- Support your child to cope with change and life's challenges
- Teach your child the skills of resilience to bounce back from adversity

When: Thursdays (6-week program)
Dates: February 15th to March 21st, 2024
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Where: Central Ringwood Community Centre, Bedford Park, Rosewarne Lane, Ringwood 3134
Cost: Free for parents and carers living in Melbourne's Eastern Region.
Registrations: [Click Here](#)
Enquiries: phone/text Sharon 0438 683 049 or email sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au

Join this 6-week parenting program to learn strategies, share stories, and take some time out for you

PARENTZONE