



Heathcote Primary School

Newsletter

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 12

8th May 2026

At Heathcote PS we value... Respect Learning Teamwork Responsibility

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

What's Happening in Term 2?

Weeks 2-8	Thursdays	Bendigo Community Health Friends Program (weekly) (3/4N & 3/4HP)
Week 4	Monday 11th May	Curriculum Day—no school for students
	Tuesday 12th May	Tennis Coaching (four sessions, weekly, same provider as 2025)
	Wednesday 13th May	School Council meeting @ 5:30pm
	Thursday 14th May	Grade 6 Student Leaders - Leadership Conference Library visits (3/4HP, 3/4N, 5/6F, 5/6MG)
Week 5	Wednesday 20th May	Foundation 2027 School Tour @ 4pm Foundation Information Evening @ 4:30pm
	Friday 22nd May	District Cross Country (interested students Gr3—6)
Week 6	Thursday 28th May	Library visits (Foundation, 1/2JS, 1/2M)
Week 7	Thursday 4th June	Library visits (3/4HP, 3/4N, 5/6F, 5/6MG)

2026 - What's Due?

Friday 8th May	Year 7 placement application form (sent home via email 17/4/26)
Friday 12th June	Barerooted tree order form
Friday 31st July	2027 Foundation enrolment forms

What's Happening in 2026?

Term 2 Continued	Monday 8th June	King's Birthday—public holiday—no school
Week 8	Tuesday 9th June	Curriculum Day—no school for students
Week 9	Tuesday 16th June	School Photos
	Wednesday 17th June	School Council @ 5:30pm
	Thursday 18th June	Junior Unit Fun Night (more details to come)
Week 10	Friday 26th June	End of Term 2 (early dismissal @ 2pm)
Term 3 Week 1	Monday 13th July	Start of Term 3
Week 10	Friday 18th September	End of Term 3 (early dismissal @ 2pm)
Term 4 Week 1	Monday 5th October	Start of Term 4
Week 4	Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct.	Swimming lessons—Foundation, 1/2JS & 1/2M
Week 7	Tues. 17th—Thurs. 19th Nov	Energy Breakthrough Camp (pushcarts)
Week 8	Mon. 23rd—Wed. 25th Nov.	Grade 5/6 Camp
Week 10	Thursday 10th December	Grade 6 Graduation
Week 11	Friday 18th December	End of Term 4 (early dismissal @ 1:30pm)

Whole School Assembly

Fridays, 9:05am—9:25am, astroturf area

Please join us to celebrate achievements and milestones from the 'week that was'
In the event of inclement weather, assembly will be online (meeting link will be sent)

Please note that more dates will be added to the above list throughout the year



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Respect – Learning – Teamwork – Responsibility

VALUES AWARDS

SWPBS FOCUS: We return sports equipment

	Student	Reason
F	Ollie	For consistently demonstrating our school value of responsibility by packing up sports equipment and kindly helping others to tidy up equipment left in the yard. Great work, Ollie, for showing excellent responsibility in taking care of our school equipment!
1/2JS	George J	For demonstrating excellent responsibility when using and returning sports equipment
1/2M	Audrey	For showing excellent responsibility and care by always returning sports equipment to its proper place.
3/4HP	Occy	Well done, Occy, for showing initiative and helping keep our sports equipment organised!
3/4N	Hunter	For always returning sports equipment with great responsibility and care. You are setting a great example for everyone around you. Well done, Hunter!
5/6F	Jax	For consistently showing responsibility by ensuring sports equipment is returned where it belongs.
5/6MG	Freddie	For consistently packing away sports equipment and for encouraging and supporting his peers to do the same. Well done, Freddie!

KINDNESS AWARDS

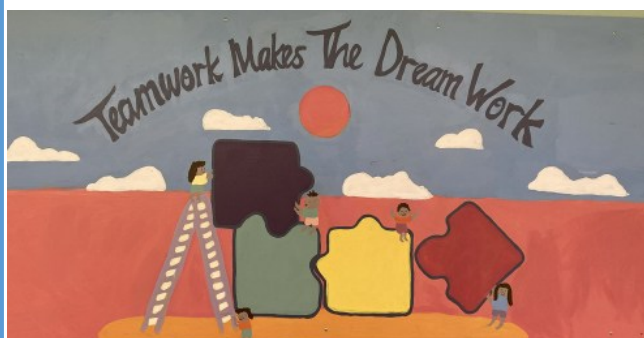
Students who consistently demonstrate acts of kindness, compassion and empathy towards others, promoting a positive and inclusive school environment.

	Student	Reason
Junior Unit	Ally	You are our Junior Unit Kindness Ambassador for consistently showing kindness to everyone, for always considering the feelings of others, and for being a wonderful friend and a great role model proudly representing HPS. Well done!
Middle Unit	Alex	Alex, you are a kind and friendly class member who includes others, makes sure everyone feels welcome, and always brings a smile. Congratulations!
Senior Unit	Evelyn N	Being kind, caring and supportive of your friends during athletics.

Congratulations to our award winners!

These awards were presented at our assembly on Friday 8th May

Congratulations to this week's award recipients!



Principal's Report



Heathcote Primary School
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What a week it has been! Classroom learning programs continued as normal along with the House Athletics Carnival, library visits (junior unit), buddy reading with special guests and a Mother's Day morning tea (photos on page 8). Of course, none of these extra curricular events can happen without a dedicated team working behind the scenes to plan them and bring them to life on the days themselves.

Larissa and Kirsty spent months preparing for the Athletics Carnival, co-ordinating everything from equipment and events to trophies and timetables. My thanks to Larissa and Kirsty for leading the organisation of the day and the whole HPS team who helped on the day. We were very fortunate to have so many family members volunteer their time leading groups, manning events, line marking, sizzling sausages, lugging the high jump mat and equipment to and from the venue and much more. A true reflection of the Heathcote PS spirit of teamwork. And, the stars of the show, our students, represented their Houses with enthusiasm and sportsmanship, making new friends along with way with their Holy Rosary Housemates. Their enthusiasm was contagious with the adults race hotly contested—some very fast feet! Thank you to Holy Rosary PS for joining us for a day of fun. We are looking forward to many more collaborations in the future. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to email, call or drop in to share their kind words about the Athletics Carnival. Safe to say it was a success with many people commenting on how much they are looking forward to the next combined schools event.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Toby



*Students have the option of wearing casual clothes to school on their birthday
(or the closest school day to their birthday if their birthday falls on the weekend
or in the school holidays)*

Thank you to Brooke and 3/4N for cooking sausage rolls for the whole school on Tuesday. It was a lovely surprise and much appreciated. It was wonderful to hear and see so many people making a special trip to the kitchen to thank Brooke and 3/4N.



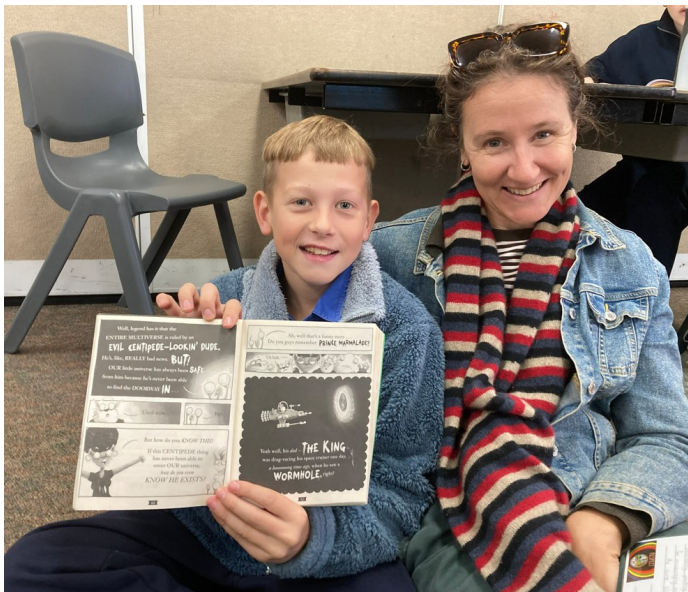
Learning—Garden Program

This week in gardening, Year 3/4 students helped to plant native plants donated to Heathcote Primary School by the Australian Plant Society. Heathcote Primary School would like to thank the Australian Plant Society for the opportunity to display student art work at the 2026 Heathcote Flower Show.



Happy Mother's Day!

We celebrated Mother's Day with shared reading and a morning tea. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us on Friday.



School Community Kilometre Club



Every Friday from 8:30am, our Kilometre Club will be up and running—rain, hail or shine!

Students can join Kerry, Miss H and others are welcome to complete laps around the bike track, building fitness and having fun along the way. Each lap will be counted towards our whole-school total. Our Term 2 goal is to reach 100 laps—let's see how far we can go together! 🏃♀️ 🏃♂️



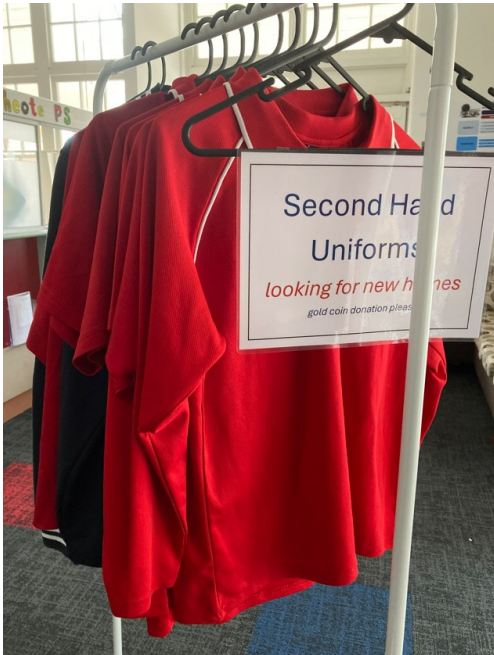
Walk, run, jog, crawl all abilities welcome



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Term 2 Total at Week 3: 90 laps!

Uniform News



An assortment of second hand:

- T-shirts (short and long sleeved)
- Shorts
- Tracksuit pants
- Jumpers
- Dresses

are available at the office for a gold coin donation



Beanies are available from the school office

Community Reminders



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Annual Privacy Reminder for our School Community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy](#) describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#)] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#)], please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in eleven community languages:

Amharic
Arabic
Chinese
Dari
Gujarati
Mandarin
Somali
Sudanese
Turkish
Urdu
Vietnamese

Late Arrivals & Early Departures

If students arrive after 9am or need to leave before 3pm, they need to sign in or sign out at the office. This is done using the Compass portal. 5/6MG visited the office to practise the process.



Mobile Phone Policy (student use)

Department policy requires that students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours, including break times.

All schools are required to have a local school policy on mobile phones that reflects this requirement and which provides details for the implementation of the policy at their school.

Our school's mobile phone policy (student use) is available on the school website [HERE](#).

In a nutshell, mobile phones and smart watches with mobile phone capabilities are to be:

- switched off during school hours
- dropped off at the office for secure storage upon arrival. Eg. Not kept in school bags.
- collected at the end of the school day.



Community Reminders



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Yard Supervision

The school yard is supervised from 8:45am until 9am. There is an announcement at 8:45am to signal classroom doors are open. Students are able to put their bags in their room, complete any before school routines and monitor jobs before heading back outside to play. The hospital end of the oval and playground are out of bounds before school.

After school, staff are on bus and crossing duty (which includes carpark duty in the main carpark). The main yard is not supervised. Any students who have not been collected by 3:15pm are taken to the office.

After school care is available through Trinity Academy. A bus from Heathcote PS drops after school care passengers at Trinity. For bookings, please contact Trinity Academy on [\(03\) 4411 6803](tel:0344116803)

Main Car Park

The pick up/drop off zone is not a parking space. Please keep the engine running, drop off or collect your passenger/s and continue on your way so the traffic keeps flowing (and does not bank up onto the road).

When parking in the other section of the car park, please pull all the way into the car park spaces – as close as you safely can to the bollard marking the front of the car park.

Please travel slowly through the car park and check for students crossing between the sections/bays.



Personal Accident & Property Insurance

The Department (which includes our school) does not have personal accident insurance for students.

If a student is injured at school or while participating in a school activity (including offsite) and requires medical treatment, parents/carers are responsible for all of their child's medical expenses. This includes transport costs such as ambulance costs (which may include an air ambulance if considered necessary)

The Department (which includes our school) does not have personal property insurance for staff and/or students.

Items of personal property that are lost, stolen or damaged at school or during school excursions are not the responsibility of Heathcote Primary School or the Department. Staff and students are reminded not to bring items of value to school or on school excursions.

Heathcote Primary School encourages parents/carers to consider obtaining their own accident insurance for students and property of value that may be brought to school.

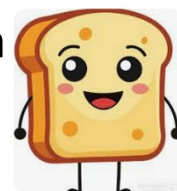
Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Thursday

8:40am—8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available



Community Happenings—Wellbeing

PARENT SUPPORT AND EDUCATION SESSIONS TERM 2, 2026



The Loddon Children's Health & Wellbeing Local offers free weekly education sessions that address mental health and wellbeing. The sessions are run by a mental health or allied health clinician at the Local.

Sessions are open to any parents or carers of children aged 0-11.

Why join in?

- Talk to Local staff about your child.
- Ask any practical questions you have about parenting now.
- Gain support for yourself as a parent.

Where: The Loddon Child and Health Wellbeing Local, 19 Helm St, Kangaroo Flat 3555. Enter via the green porch at the back of the site.

Dates and topics: Wednesdays (face to face)

WHEN	TIME	TOPIC
Apr 22	9.30am	ADHD What is it and How Can I Help?
Apr 29	9.30am	What Is Autism and How Can I Help?
May 6th	9.30am	Parent Wellbeing
May 13	9.30am	All About Anger
May 20	9.30am	Managing Big Feelings
May 27	9.30am	Tech Troubles
Jun 3	9.30am	Anxiety in kids
Jun 10	9.30am	Family rules and consequences
Jun 17	9.30am	Sleep

If you have any questions, please contact Annette Clemments on 1800 433 977.

Book in via email icfhwlocals@bchs.com.au. Please state your name, your child's name and the session you wish to attend.



The Children's Health and Wellbeing Local is jointly funded by the Victorian Government and the Australian Government through the Head to Health Kids Initiative.

In partnership with Bendigo Health, Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Echuca Regional Health, North Central LLEN, Maryborough District Health, Dhekaya Health and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health



Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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JOIN THE TEAM!
UNDER 12's FOOTBALL

MPFC **WE WANT YOU!**

GET FIT!
MAKE FRIENDS!
HAVE FUN!

BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME!

SIGN UP NOW!
CALL SONYA FOR INFO ON 0438 904 611
TRAINING IS AT CMC JUNORTOWN

START PLAYING

LEARN THE BASICS, FIND YOUR FEET AND MAKE A BUNCH OF NEW FRIENDS AT YOUR LOCAL WOOLWORTHS NETSETGO CENTRE.

PLAY NETBALL

Woolworths net set go

Come join us! Thursdays, 4pm - 5pm
Heathcote Tennis courts Starting Week 1, Term 2
(Thursday 23rd April)

nab AFL Auskick

The grass stains you get playing as a kid stay with you your whole life. So for fun, friendship, and getting your hands dirty, it's gotta be NAB AFL Auskick.

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

HEATHCOTE AUSKICK CENTRE

THURSDAY | 4PM - 5PM
STARTING 30TH APRIL | BARRACK RESERVE

Auskick Coordinator | Jess Day

 REGISTER NOW

PANTHERS **HEATHCOTE PANTHERS WINTER SEASON**

Term 2 & Term 3 2026

We are now seeking expressions of interest for our Junior Basketball Winter Season

Under 10 Boys born 2017-2018
Under 12 Boys born 2015-2016
Under 14 Boys born 2013-2014
Under 16 Boys born 2011-2012

TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Under 10 & Under 12 - Monday 4pm - 5pm
Under 14 - Monday 5pm - 6pm
Under 16 - Monday 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**Training times may vary depending on participant numbers **

- All welcome. Training is free of charge.
- Competition games are played at Red Energy Arena, Bendigo.
- Please contact Alan 0418 589 020 or Kristyn 0418 852 339

www.facebook.com/HeathcotePanthersBasketball

LOCATION: Barrack Reserve Stadium, Heathcote.

Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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FREE PLAYGROUP

10am-12pm
Every Wednesday
165 High Street Bunbunarik

St John's Anglican Church Heathcote

TRINITY ACADEMY



SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY SPORT

FREE WORKSHOP
FOR SPORTS COACHES &
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVIDERS IN GREATER BENDIGO

Monday 11th May, 6pm-8.30pm
@ Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve

or

Sunday 21st June, 2pm-4.30pm
@ Lake Weeroona Pavilion

or

Wednesday 8th July, 6pm-8.30pm
@ Lake Weeroona Pavilion

Light refreshments provided



Scan the QR code to register for the workshop or visit:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DKRWY>

This FREE workshop will help community sports clubs and physical activity providers understand neurodiversity and how to implement practical strategies to create inclusive, supportive environments for neurodivergent children. This interactive workshop is a neuro-affirming session developed and facilitated by people with lived experience

Contact Jo at Sports Focus for further information on 5442 3101 or joc@sportsfocus.com.au



Mariah's Musicians

facebook.com/mariahsmusicians

MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE WITH MARIAH MCCARTHY

Guitar, piano, ukulele and voice lessons
Private & shared available

Enquire now -
mariahmccarthy@gmail.com



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

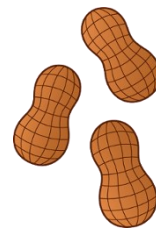
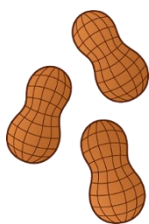


School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618



School and Department policies
are available on the
[school website.](#)

School Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

If you hold a current Healthcare card or a Centrelink pensioner card you may be eligible to apply for CSEF. CSEF provides financial assistance for families to use for camps, excursions and school sports.

If you think you may be eligible, please contact the school office.



**Remember,
only WATER
in your**



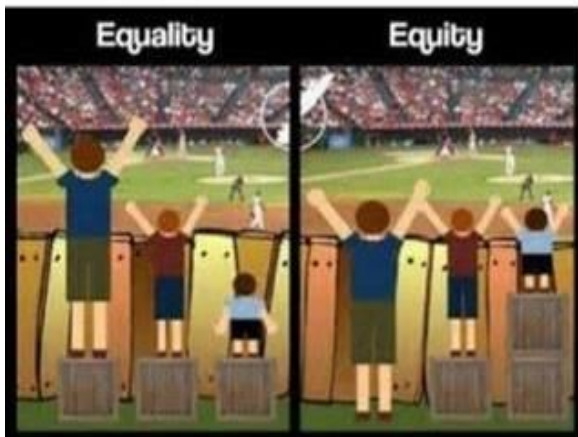
drink bottle at school.

SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

GET IT ON Google play

Download on the App Store



PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse. No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community. Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



Please check your child's hair for any unwelcome visitors. If hair is shoulder length, please be sure to tie it up as a preventative strategy.



FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

1: INSPECT If you suspect head lice, check	2: TREAT Use lice treatment product as directed.	3: REMOVE lice nits by combing the hair with the comb provided.	4: CLEAN home and personal items.