



# Heathcote Primary School

## News

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[heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Issue No. 13

14th May 2025

***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.*

### 2025 - What's Happening?

Week 4	Thursday 15th May	Grade 5/6 STEM excursion <b>(postponed)</b>
	Friday 16th May	Cross Country (interested Grade 4-6 students)
Week 5	Tuesday 20th May	School Photos (details in this newsletter)
	Tuesday 20th May 5:30pm School Tour 6pm—7pm Information Session	Foundation 2026 Tour & Information Evening
	Wednesday 21st May	School Council @ 5:30pm
Week 6	Tuesday 27th May	Tennis lessons (whole school)
Weeks 7 & 8	Tuesday 3rd June	Tennis lessons (whole school)
	Wednesday 4th June	Foundation—Grade 2 Reading Information Session 3:15pm—4pm (further details coming)
	Tues. 3rd June— Wed. 11th June	Somers Camp (Grade 5/6 students)
Week 8	Monday 9th June	Public Holiday—no school
Week 11	Friday 4th July	End of Term 2. Early Dismissal @ 2pm

### 2025 - What's Due?

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# CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

<u>TEAMWORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Salwa Xander Logan G	Lillian Charlie Jaxon C Liam B Emma Riley H Masie	Tauri	Jackson A Teddy Kynan Maysa
<b><u>BRONZE LEVEL</u></b>			
Zelda Johnathan Sammy Jett T Xander Jax Malachi Jeerapatra William P Elliott Fox Angus Charlotte B Jackson C Zavier Mason Kadir Reynald	Amelia B Olivia Ernie Lawrence Charlie Lincoln Charlotte B Noah Bu Mason Elliott Ava S	Miles Tayte Nate M Jack R Ryker Ava T Jeerapatra William P Elliott Angus	Zoe Mason Hailee Malachi Ben D Jeerapatra William P Angus
<b><u>SILVER LEVEL</u></b>			
Indie		Theo Indie	

## CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Kynan - Learning Award for staying focused on learning.

Masie - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Tauri - Responsibility Award for being responsible when working with others.

Xander - Teamwork Award for encouraging others.

Riley - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Jaxon - Respect Award for being respectful.

Salwa - Teamwork Award for communicating well with the teacher.

Charlie - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Teddy - Learning Award for always trying your best.

Lillian - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Jackson A - Learning Award for reflecting on learnt skills.

Liam B - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Logan - Teamwork Award for co-operating with and including others.

Awards are presented at our weekly whole school assembly on Friday.

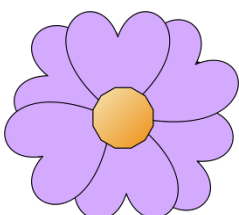
**\*\*Assembly now starts at 2:15pm\*\***



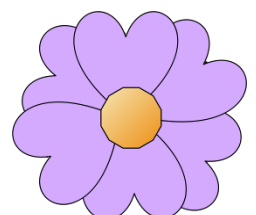
Heathcote Primary School  
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## Kindness Ambassador Award

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



Amelia B - Always shows kindness and consideration to everyone. You are a good friend and a great role model.



## Principal's Report

It is quite amazing what can be packed into one school day, let alone a school week.

Alongside our daily literacy and numeracy lessons, specialist classes and wellbeing check ins, all students have been participating in tennis lessons, our F-2 students attended a space incursion, small groups of Grade 3– 6 students have been offsite at Boys to the Bush and animal assisted learning excursions, we've hosted a whole school Mother's and Special Person's morning tea followed by a shared reading session and more.



*Students are explicitly taught about the relationship between sounds and letters.*

The morning tea and shared reading session were the brainchild of our F-2 teaching team and I thank them for creative thinking. Thanks are also extended to the whole team who put the morning together and everyone who was able to attend.

It's not only our students who demonstrate the school value of **learning**. As a staff we engage in professionally learning during our curriculum days and staff meetings. Currently, the key areas of focus on our learning agenda are the new Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0, our ongoing work with Real Schools along with continuing the implementation of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program. This week's newsletter includes two parent/care information articles from Real Schools. Additionally, our junior school and small group learning tutor are participating in Little Learners Love Literacy professional learning our Inclusion Outreach Coach is working in our Grade 5/6 team focusing on Zones of Regulation. Stay tuned for more details about these areas along with the unveiling of our school wide behaviour matrix.

Our school yard is supervised from 8:45am and we request that no students are onsite earlier than this time (with the exception of a small group of bus travellers who arrive a few minutes earlier). If students arrive before 8:45am, they need to stay in the astroturf area outside their classroom or the concrete downball area immediately outside the office. At the other end of the day, staff are on school crossing and bus duty after school. The oval, playgrounds and basketball court are not supervised. Our staff meetings start at 3:15pm on both Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday. Trinity Academy provides an After School Care service and students attending catch a bus from Heathcote PS. Trinity Academy can be contacted on (03) 4411 6803.

The week ahead is sure to be full of new learning, activities and games. It will see us smiling our biggest smiles on Tuesday for our annual school photo day, families attending Student Support Group meetings (SSGs) facilitated by Jess, our leading teacher for wellbeing, inclusion and support along with an information evening for 2026 foundation families and a School Council meeting. Additionally, our Grade 4–6 students will begin completing the annual Attitudes to School Survey in small groups.

I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together over the coming week.

Carolyn



**Heathcote Primary School**

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# A Real Schools Partnership What you might see?

## QUICK SUMMARY

1. Restorative practice is an alternative to adversarial methods
2. Focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships
3. All parties have input
4. Encourages students to take responsibility for their actions



**A** warm greeting to all our parents and carers. We're thrilled to share some really exciting news with you. Your school has made the important decision to partner with us at Real Schools and what we're doing in this article is sharing some of what this exciting journey is going to be about.

When we work with schools our job is to walk alongside staff, students and the parent/carer community to enhance all the great things

that are already happening in the school. And when we've been talking to your school leaders recently there's already so many amazing things that happen across your school community. What this partnership will do is further elevate that work. But there's also some things that we'll be focussing on that will help us develop the culture at your school.

And that's about how we work together with the key stakeholders in the school – our staff, our

students and our parent/carer community. The way that we're going to do this work together is through what we call our partnership model. The partnership works over a three-year period and every year we'll be supporting your whole school community to be able to get the gains that you want and of course deserve.

In each year of partnership, we will facilitate a professional learning day with all your incredible staff. There will then be an in-class support day where we will be in your classrooms modelling, co-teaching and providing feedback to your amazing teachers. Additionally, we want parents on this journey as well, so each year we facilitate a parent information session, along with articles, newsletter inserts, short videos and social media posts to keep you up to date with the partnership journey. These are designed to

build your understanding of the great work that your school will be doing to support and guide our most precious resource – your children – but also to provide practical tips for parents to utilise in the home environment.

***Restorative practices  
are about explicitly  
focussing on building  
strong relationships  
with all our  
stakeholders (staff,  
students and parents)  
across our school***

Now, you may be asking what is the focus of this work? Well, it's around building a restorative school community through a framework our CEO and Founder Adam Voigt has designed which is called RP2.0. We're going to unpack this further in future articles, but just to give you a little taste, restorative practices are about explicitly focussing on building strong relationships with all our stakeholders (staff, students and parents) across our school and leveraging those relationships for amazing things to

happen in terms of not only the social-emotional development of your child, but also in terms of their learning outcomes.

In addition to that, what we want to do through this partnership is help your child to be able to take responsibility for their actions. What we all want is for them to grow into great citizens who put back into their community. We do all of this by working restoratively which, when an incident occurs, allows a focus on the harm that may have been caused, the damage that may have resulted to the relationship to be repaired, and then, focusing on moving forward in a harmonious and supportive environment.

So it's an exciting journey that we've got in front of us.

If you'd like to find out a little more, we encourage you to go to our website – [realschools.com.au](https://realschools.com.au) to start to explore some of this work that we're embarking on together. You'll also receive full access to the membership section of the website through a username and password that your school will provide.

We look forward to working with you as this journey unfolds.

## Heathcote Primary School

### Family Information Session (onsite and online)

### Save the Date—Term 3, Tuesday 19th August @ 7pm





# A Different Way of Working

## QUICK TIPS

1. Restorative practice is an alternative to adversarial methods
2. Focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships
3. All parties have input
4. Encourages students to take responsibility for their actions



**R**estorative practices and adversarial methods represent distinct approaches to addressing conflicts, disputes, and wrongdoing. The decision has been made by your child's school to adopt a restorative approach, viewing conflict resolution through the lens of Restorative Practice 2.0. This approach is characterised by a holistic working method centred around building a robust relational culture.

So, what sets this approach apart? The key distinctions can be summarised in the following categories:

### Language

Restorative Practice involves open communication and dialogue among all parties involved in the conflict or harm. It employs informal approaches such as affective language and more structured processes such as restorative

circles or conferences, where participants can share their perspectives, express emotions, and work towards mutually agreed-upon solutions. In contrast, adversarial methods typically follow a formal legal process involving courtroom proceedings, lawyers, judges, and prescribed rules. The process is more adversarial, with each party presenting their case and a third party (judge or jury) making decisions based on presented evidence.

### Mindset

In Restorative Practice, the primary focus is on repairing harm and restoring relationships. The objective is to bring individuals impacted by a conflict or wrongdoing together, fostering communication, empathy, and understanding. The emphasis lies in resolving issues collaboratively and instilling a sense of responsibility and accountability. On the other hand, adversarial methods, often associated with traditional legal systems, concentrate on determining guilt or innocence, applying

punishment, and upholding societal norms with a primary focus on establishing a winner and a loser through litigation.

### Conduct

Restorative Practice engages in conversations where all parties have a say in the resolution process, with decisions made with a focus on repairing harm. Adversarial methods, in contrast, place decision-making in the hands of the authoritarian person, such as a teacher, parent or coach. The process is more formalised and may not prioritise the active involvement of individuals affected by the conflict.

### Role of Authority

Restorative Practice serves as a transformative approach, empowering individuals entangled in conflicts to embrace responsibility for their actions and actively contribute to collaborative problem-solving. The role of the authoritative figure in this context is more akin to a facilitator, guiding the process

with the intent of fostering open communication and understanding, rather than imposing decisions. In contrast, adversarial methods lean on an authority figure, be it a teacher, parent, or coach, who assumes a disciplinary role, dispensing punishments in an attempt to elicit behavioural change. This stark contrast highlights the restorative approach's emphasis on shared responsibility and constructive dialogue, while adversarial methods often rely on a top-down enforcement model.

In summary, restorative practices prioritise repairing harm and restoring relationships through inclusive processes, while adversarial methods prioritise legal outcomes, punishment, and a more formalised decision-making process.

*Restorative practices prioritise repairing harm and restoring relationships through inclusive processes.*

# Mental Health & Wellbeing

## Mental Health in Primary Schools

Children's mental health is fundamental to their development and learning. Good mental health means having a positive sense of wellbeing, coping with challenges and being able to realise individual potential. Unfortunately, not all children experience good mental health. Schools are an ideal platform for promoting children's mental health, and the MHiPS (Mental Health in Primary Schools) program in Victoria aims to equip primary schools with the resources and expertise to address student mental health and wellbeing. One of the avenues for this is the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader role, which commenced this year at Heathcote Primary School.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader role

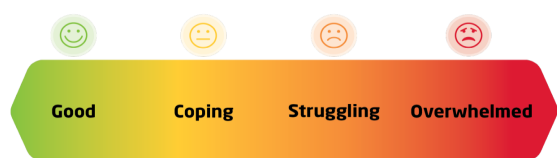
A Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL) in schools is a qualified teacher who focuses on implementing a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. The role involves building staff capacity to identify and support students with mental health concerns, coordinating targeted support for students, and establishing clear pathways for referrals. Essentially, MHWLs are responsible for creating a positive and supportive environment where students can thrive both academically and emotionally. It is important to note that this is not a clinical role and not designed for direct intervention. At our school, Ms Sergi is in the MHWL role.

## Resources to help support children's mental health and wellbeing.

The Children's Wellbeing Continuum is an evidence-based tool developed to support conversations around children's wellbeing. The tool provides a snapshot of a child's social and emotional wellbeing at a point in time.

The Continuum has four anchor points that range from "Good" through to "Coping", "Struggling" and "Overwhelmed". By enabling parents, teachers and service providers to more easily discuss and reflect on wellbeing, the Continuum can support health literacy, and early identification and action when children are struggling.

The Children's Wellbeing Continuum



The [Raising Healthy Minds app](#) by [raisingchildren.net.au](https://raisingchildren.net.au) has published an animation video to help showcase what the Continuum is and how it can be used to support children's social and emotional wellbeing.

If you have any questions about this role, resources that are available to support children's mental health or would like to talk to someone about any concerns you have regarding your child's wellbeing, please contact Ms Sergi by phone or email, [Concetta.sergi2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Concetta.sergi2@education.vic.gov.au)

## TERM TWO 2025

### 0-11 YEARS PARENT SUPPORT AND EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Loddon Children's Health & Wellbeing Local will be offering weekly education sessions related to mental health and wellbeing for parents of children 0-11. These are available in person. The session is run by a lived experience parent and mental health clinician.

**Sessions are open to any family with children 0-11.**

#### Why join in?

- Meet and mix with other parents.
- Talk to mental health staff about your child.
- Ask any practical questions you have about parenting at the moment.
- Gain support for yourself as a parent.

**Where:** Activity Room 2, Downstairs, Bendigo Library, Hargreaves St,  
BENDIGO 3550 **Note the \*dates are in an upstairs room at the library.**  
**Use the lift to find us.**

#### Dates and topics: Thursdays

*Apr 24th	1pm face to face	Sleep issues
May 1st	1pm face to face	Stop the tech
*May 8th	1pm face to face	ADHD What is it and how can I help?
*May 15th	1pm face to face	Managing big feelings
May 22nd	1pm face to face	Parent wellbeing
May 29th	1pm face to face	Anger in kids
Jun 5 <sup>th</sup>	1pm face to face	Anxiety in kids
Jun 12th	1pm face to face	What is autism and how can I help? Presented by Daniel
*Jun 19th	1pm face to face	Setting limits and family rules
Jun 26th	1pm face to face	Building social skills

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

**Book in here:** using the QR code or email [icfhwlocals@bchs.com.au](mailto:icfhwlocals@bchs.com.au)





Heathcote Primary School has a Private Group page on Facebook. We currently have 104 members. If you would like to become a member of the group, search for Heathcote Primary School and request to join. Each request is approved individually. For the safety of our students, there are three questions to ensure that only people directly connected to HPS become members. Requests are usually approved within 48 hours. However, if we are unsure of the connection to the school, there may be a delay whilst we do some research. We may also decline the original request and seek further information. Please don't be offended—our intention is to make sure we can identify each person as it is a Private Group. We ask that no images are shared / screen-shot.

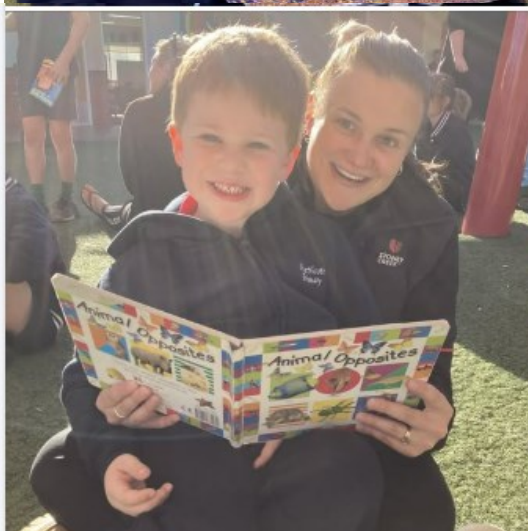


**Heathcote Primary**

Admin

★ Rising contributor · 12 May at 22:21 · 🌐

We started the week with a morning tea in honour of Mother's Day and all the mums, carers and special people in our students' lives. The weather was on our side and morning tea was followed by shared reading outside. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us today. We hope you enjoyed it!



# Cooking - Year 3/4



Students in 3/4HS and 5/6SB attend a weekly two hour Kitchen session.

In Semester 2, 3/4N and 5/6MG will be donning aprons and cooking up a storm.





**Savannah  
Charlotte H**



*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)*

## Transition Information

**Heathcote Primary School**

Accepting enrolments for  
Foundation, 2026

**Foundation  
Information  
Evening**

Tuesday 20th May  
6pm - 7pm

Phone: (03) 5433 3090  
Email: [heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au)  
Please contact us to arrange a school tour

Heathcote Primary School  
Respect - Learning - Teamwork - Responsibility

The poster features several circular images: a school building, a group of children in school uniforms, a child writing at a desk, a group of children holding a rainbow, and a child with a dog.

**School Tour**

Tuesday

20th May

5:30pm—6pm

# Reminders

## 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. A copy is available on the website and hard copies from the office.

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, please contact the school.

### Insurance Reminders from Department of Education

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents/carers of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

### Photographing & Filming Students We Need Your Help Please

We have a number of students whose images cannot be shared publicly. As a school community, we have a combined responsibility to keep our students safe, including protecting their identity and image.

With this in mind, we need your help...

**We are asking families to please wait until the end of assembly to take photos / film their child/ren (instead of during the assembly).**

Plans are underway to create a special location with a fancy background that students can have their photo taken after assembly with their certificate. This means that families will be guaranteed an opportunity to take a photo with only their child in the photo.

We know that no images of other children are taken deliberately and it can be hard to avoid having other students in the photo of your own child. By providing a separate location, the risk of having other students in the photo is reduced.

**Thank you for your support of this request at recent whole school events. We were very grateful for your co-operation supporting this change.**

**Thank you!**



# School Photos—Tuesday 20th May

## order your school photos now

to order visit: [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au)

enter code: 3EM 1XZ MT8



scan to order



# Reminders



We have made the switch  
to Compass!



Apple Store



Google Play Store

Download the Compass app today and  
contact the school for your personal log in  
details.



**Heathcote Primary School**

Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

# Community Events

## Heathcote Contemporary Art

at Heathcote Community House

### After School Art Program

Wednesday 14 May

—  
Wednesday 18 June

5:00 - 6:00pm

Bookings essential  
03 5433 2820

\$15 per class or  
\$10 concession  
/ siblings



facebook.com/mariahsmusicians

## MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE WITH MARIAH MCCARTHY

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

Enquire now -  
mariahsmccarthy@gmail.com





# Community

## Events

# KANGAROO FLAT FAMILY FUN DAY



**FREE ENTRY** **SUNDAY** **12PM**  
**MAY 18, 2025** **TO 3PM**

INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ♥ AIRBRUSH TATTOOS  
ANIMAL FARM ♥ ART AND CRAFT ♥ JUMPING CASTLE  
FACE PAINTING ♥ BUBBLE ENTERTAINMENT ♥ GIVEAWAYS  
ROVING CHARACTERS ♥ SPORTING ACTIVITIES  
FREE FRESH FRUIT ♥ BBQ SAUSAGES, VEGGIE BURGERS,  
HOT DOGS, CHICKEN STICKS AND DRINKS – ALL \$2 EACH  
*This is a smoke and vape free event and child safe event.*

**KANGAROO FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**60 OLYMPIC PARADE, KANGAROO FLAT**



# 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!**  **Every Thurs (4.45–5.45 pm)**  
Starting Thurs 13th March  **Heathcote Tennis courts**

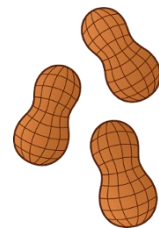
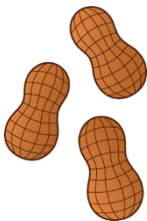


## School Bank Details

**Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account**

**BSB: 083 001**

**ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618**



Peter from St Vincent de Paul would like to remind our community that Vinnies can provide food vouchers and help with school costs for uniforms and excursions.

**Heathcote Vinnies**

**155 High Street, Heathcote**

**Open Wednesday and Friday**

**10am to 12:30pm**

## 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.

# DRINK BOTTLE



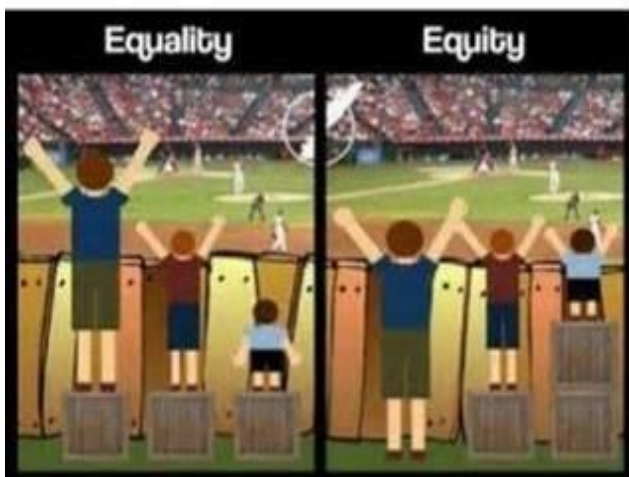
**Remember,  
only WATER  
in your drink  
bottle at school.**



## 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](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)



## 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.**



REMEMBER  
ONCE A WEEK,  
TAKE A PEEK

### FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

