



Heathcote Primary School

Newsletter

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 20

17th July 2026 (Term 3, Week 1)

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 3?

Week 2	Monday 20th July	Grade 5/6 lawn bowls
	Wednesday 22nd July	Division football (Gr 5/6 football team, notes home)
Weeks 2—10	Fridays, weekly sessions	Grade 5/6 Bendigo Children's Health friendship program
Week 3	Monday 27th July	100 Days Brighter Celebration!
	Wednesday 29th July	Division netball (Gr 5/6 netball team, notes coming)
	Thursday 30th July	Wanyarra Incursion (whole school) Library visits—Foundation, 1/2JS, 1/2M
Week 4	Thursday 6th August	Junior Unit incursion—Wonderful Water Library visits—3/4HP, 3/4N, 5/6F, 5/6MG
Week 5	Wednesday 12th August	Real Schools Parent Information Session (after school)
Week 9	Thursday 10th September	Junior Unit excursion (notes coming)
Week 10	Friday 18th September	End of Term 3 (early dismissal @ 2pm)

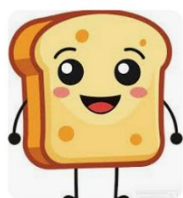
New dates included in this newsletter for the first time are highlighted in yellow for convenience

2026 - What's Due?

Friday 31st July	2027 Foundation enrolment forms
Tuesday 11th August	Year 7 (2027) placement acceptance forms

What's Happening in Term 4, 2026?

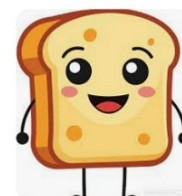
Term 4		
Week 1	Monday 5th October	Start of Term 4
Week 3	Friday 23rd October	Division cricket (Gr 5/6 cricket team)
Week 4	Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct.	Swimming lessons—Foundation, 1/2JS & 1/2M
Week 7	Tues. 17th—Thurs. 19th Nov	Energy Breakthrough Camp (pushcarts)
Week 8	Mon. 23rd—Wed. 25th Nov.	Grade 5/6 Camp
Week 9	Wednesday 2nd December	Grade 6 End of Year Excursion (details to come)
Week 10	Tuesday 8th December	Statewide Transition Day
	Thursday 10th December	Grade 6 Graduation
Week 11	Friday 18th December	End of Term 4 (early dismissal @ 1:30pm)



Breakfast Club in the Kitchen

Tuesday & Thursday, 8:40am—8:55am

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available



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.

New dates included in this newsletter for the first time are highlighted in yellow for convenience.



Heathcote Primary School

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VALUES AWARDS

SWPBS Focus: We choose teams fairly

	Student	Reason
F	Alessia	For consistently choosing teams fairly, including everyone and always thinking of others. Well done Alessia, what a great role model you are!
1/2JS	Ernie	For choosing teams fairly by being inclusive and thoughtful towards others.
1/2M	Emma	For creating a positive playground environment by playing fairly and including everyone. Great job, Emma!
3/4HP	Pippa	For always choosing teams fairly and making sure everyone feels included. You demonstrate kindness always!
3/4N	Jett T	For creating a positive school environment and always encouraging others. Well done, Jett!
5/6F	Em—Rose	For demonstrating fairness by choosing teams in an inclusive and respectful way. You help to create a positive school environment!
5/6MG	Angelo	For promoting a positive school environment by playing fairly and inclusively with others. Great effort, Angelo!

KINDNESS AWARDS

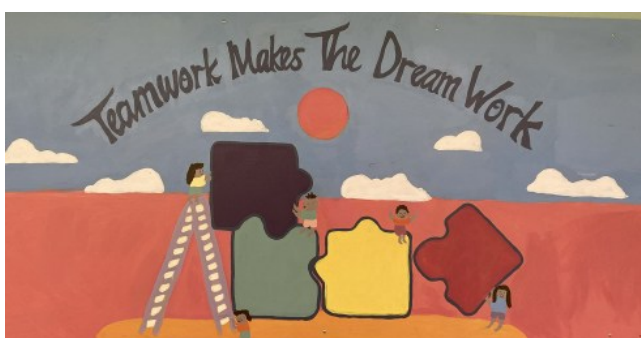
Students who consistently demonstrate acts of kindness, compassion and empathy towards others, promoting a positive and inclusive school environment.

	Student	Reason
Junior Unit	Oliver K	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 Oliver!
Middle Unit	Jaydy	For always showing kindness towards others. Jaydy is a friendly face who always lends a helping hand to those around him. Fantastic effort, Jaydy!
Senior Unit	Rachel	For showing kindness to someone in need. You took your time to support, coach and teach a fellow student when they needed help. Wonderful work, Rachel!

Congratulations to our award winners!

These awards were presented at our assembly on Friday 17th July 2026

*Congratulations to this week's and last week's
award recipients!*



Principal's Report



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Welcome to Term 3! It has been lovely seeing everyone after the two week break, hearing about holidays, new pets, lost teeth, sleep ins, adventures and time with family and friends. We kicked off the term with learning conversations, celebrating student achievements from Semester 1 and identifying goals for Semester 2. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Another action packed term is coming our way! Our key focus on **numeracy** will continue in Semester 2, along with a number of special events including 100 Days Brighter, Science Week, Book Week, incursions and excursions.

In **staffing news**, Bec Somerville will continue her leave in Term 3 with Sue Lawson and Jodie Leechman sharing the teaching of Performing Arts classes. Sue and Jodie are very familiar faces at Heathcote PS, both having spent time teaching across all year levels, including specialist subjects and tutoring respectively, over many years. Sue will also teach 3/4HP for two days a week as Christy Pryor moves into the wellbeing and inclusion role from three days to five days a week.

We welcome Emma Sandford to the Heathcote PS team as our new **social worker**. Emma will be at Heathcote PS on Mondays and Thursdays. Emma has a Master of Social Work from RMIT and started her career as a social worker in the fields of mental health, homelessness and crisis services. Having worked with many adults whose struggles started in childhood, she decided to pivot to working with children in a therapeutic role, using a variety of play-based methods including sandtray therapy, art, drama, music and movement. She is particularly passionate about using creative/expressive methods with neurodivergent children, supporting them to tap into hidden personal narratives and reveal new strengths and passions. Emma joined some learning conversation meetings on Monday and is looking forward to meeting everyone over the coming weeks.



Throughout 2026, we have been fortunate to participate in a department initiative called Intensive School Support (ISS). This program has brought additional resources and support to Heathcote PS, all of which are benefitting our students. As part of the program, we will undertake an **alignment review** in Term 3. The alignment review focuses on our school's Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) and the supports provided by the region and the department. It will include fieldwork at the school in Weeks 6 and 7 of this term which will incorporate focus groups with staff and students and classroom visits. Following the conclusion of the fieldwork, we'll share a summary of key findings and recommendations with the school community. The whole process is designed to acknowledge and celebrate our strengths and identify and plan the next steps in our commitment to continuous school improvement.

As you may be aware, there is the **possibility of industrial action** on Thursday 23rd July. Union members across the state are currently voting on whether or not to accept the revised offer made on Friday 17th July. Voting closes on Tuesday, after which, it will become known if industrial action, including the 24-hour stop work, will proceed. As soon as further information is available, it will be shared with families. We recognise that the uncertainty surrounding whether or not a stop work may occur on Thursday may be difficult and we are grateful for your understanding.

Looking forward to seeing what we achieve together in the week ahead!



From the Department of Education

We've been advised that a national test of [AusAlert](#) will happen across Australia on Monday 27 July

AusAlert is a new, national emergency warning system. It sends warning messages to compatible mobile devices during emergencies, to keep people informed so they can act quickly. The Australian Government plans to launch AusAlert in October 2026.

On Monday 27 July at 2 pm, all [compatible mobile devices](#) will receive a [Critical Alert](#). Compatible mobile devices include phones, tablets, smart watches, safety watches and some vehicle devices. These will vibrate and make a loud, siren-like warning sound for about 10 seconds. This will happen even if they are on silent or do not disturb. The message will clearly state that it is a test. No action is required from the test.

You may also wish to let your child know that if they see or hear the alert, school staff will support them. You can learn more at [AusAlert: children and teens](#). Information is also available in other [languages](#).

Safe phones

AusAlert may increase risk for people experiencing violence, especially if they live with someone who uses violence. Alerts may expose safety devices.

If you or someone you know has a hidden device, the best way to stay safe during the test is to:

- turn off your mobile device or put it in aeroplane mode
- keep your device off or in aeroplane mode for 24 hours.
- Silent mode and do not disturb will not stop the alert.

For more information, please refer to the [Staying safe with AusAlert page](#).

100 DAYS BRIGHTER!



★ 100 Days Brighter Celebration ★

Date: Monday the 27th of July

You are invited to:

Dress in bright colours (all year levels)

★ Celebrate with us at the 100 Days Brighter Activities from 2:20pm on the turf area. Come along and be part of the fun as we celebrate how far our young learners have come in just 100 days!

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.

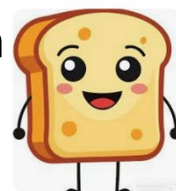
Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Thursday

8:40am—8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available



Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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AFL CARD TRADING

SWAP! TRADE! CONNECT!
AT THE PLAYGROUND!
near Barrack Reserve

MONDAY 20TH JULY 4.30PM
THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST 4.30PM

BE KIND **TRADE FAIRLY** **HAVE FUN!**

BRING YOUR CARDS AND JOIN THE FUN!

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.

SCAN HERE

We Want Your Opinion!

Heathcote Health and Bendigo Council are bringing a new exercise opportunity to Heathcote. We have 3 simple questions we'd love your feedback on to make it as accessible as possible.

Scan here to complete a quick survey



FREE PLAYGROUP

10am-12pm Every Wednesday
165 High Street Bunbunarik

St John's Anglican Church Heathcote

TRINITY ACADEMY

Community Happenings



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Heathcote Carers Brunch

Overview

Carers Victoria invites you to connect over coffee and cake.

Looking after someone else can be a full-time job, so why not take a little time out for yourself?

Enjoy some great food and connect with fellow carers.

About this event

Join us at Fodder Café for a relaxed gathering with other carers.

Enjoy complimentary coffee and cake, connect with local supports, share a conversation (or simply listen), and spend time with people who understand the caring journey.

This event is FREE for carers but you do need to register to attend.



events@carersvictoria.org.au



1800 514 845



www.carersvictoria.org.au/events

HEATHCOTE

Wednesday 29 July
10:00AM to 11:30PM

Fodder Cafe
74 High Street
Heathcote VIC 3523

**If you have any accessibility requirements, please advise us at time of registration.*

Spaces are limited, register now!
This event is designed for carers who live in Heathcote and surrounding areas.

Scan to register



<https://carersvictoriaEV1585.eventbrite.com.au>

Community Happenings



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COURT HOUSE CRAFTS.

We are a Non Profit Community Co Operative
And boast an extensive and diverse range of.....

Arts & Crafts.

Hand Knitted and Sewn Garments.

Dressmaking Fabrics & Remnants.

Quilts, Quilting Fabrics & Accessories

Knitting Wool and yarns.

Range of Embroidery Threads,
Haberdashery, Laces, Buttons & Ribbons.

Follow us on Facebook.....

heathcotecourthousecrafts



Court House Crafts.

170 High St.,
Heathcote,
Victoria.

Phone 0435180683.

How to access support

For support in your area:

Call: 1800 433 977

Email: icfhlocals@bchs.com.au

loddonchwl.com.au

Contact us to find out how we can help.

Referrals

We are currently accepting referrals from target and partner health services. See our website for details.

Fees and cost

This is a fully-funded service, there is no cost.

Interpreters and translators

Let us know what type of interpreter you need when you make your appointment.

Connecting you with others

Our support network is wide-reaching. If our services aren't the right ones for your child, we can connect you to those that will better meet their needs.

If you need help in a crisis

We are not a crisis service. In an emergency where there is immediate risk of harm to anyone, call Triple Zero (000).

For 24-hour crisis support,
call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Our partners

The Loddon Children's Health and Wellbeing Local is run by Bendigo Community Health Services.

We bring together and coordinate services with the following partners:

- Bendigo Health
- Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative
- Dhehkaya Health
- Echuca Regional Health
- Maryborough District Health Service
- Njema Aboriginal Corporation
- North Central LLEN
- Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health

Options for access

Select services are available in a range of community settings in association with our partners.

We know getting to appointments isn't always easy. Where practical, we offer telephone, online and in-person options.



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.



Supporting the healthy development and emotional wellbeing of children aged 0-11

Get to know the Loddon Children's Health and Wellbeing Local



Updated February 2025

Community Reminders

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>

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.

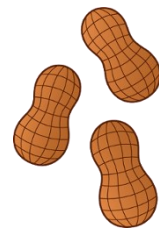
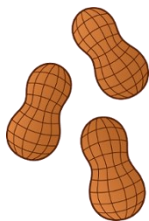


School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618



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

