



Heathcote Primary School

Newsletter

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 23

7th August 2026 (Term 3, Week 4)

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?

Weeks 2—10	Fridays, weekly sessions	Grade 5/6 Bendigo Children's Health friendship program
Week 5	Wednesday 12th August	Real Schools Parent Information Session (after school)
	Thursday 13th August	Wanyara Incursion (onsite at HPS, rescheduled)
Week 6	Thursday 20th August	Library visits—Foundation, 1/2JS, 1/2M
Week 7	Mon 24th—Fri 28th Aug.	Book Week (more details on page 2) Activities in House Groups 2pm—3pm (M, Tu, Th, F) Book Week Dress Up Day & Parade (Wed)
Week 8	Wednesday 2nd September	Professional Practice Day—no students required
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?

OVERDUE	2027 Foundation enrolment forms
Tuesday 11th August	Year 7 (2027) placement acceptance forms

Book Week

Symphony of Stories



#CBCA2026

When: Wednesday 26th of August

Where: Parade from 9:05am on the Turf Area

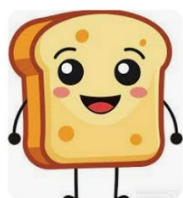
Come dressed as your favourite book character to join in the fun! Families are welcome to come along and watch the parade.

Photos on the day are welcomed on the well-being bench.

Book week activities for students will be completed for the entire book week (24th -28th August) during class time in house groups.

What's Happening in Term 4, 2026?

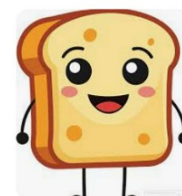
Term 4		
Week 1	Monday 5th October	Start of Term 4
Week 3	Friday 23rd October	Division cricket (Gr 5/6 cricket team)
Week 4	Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct.	Swimming lessons—Foundation, 1/2JS & 1/2M
Week 7	Tues. 17th—Thurs. 19th Nov	Energy Breakthrough Camp (pushcarts)
Week 8	Mon. 23rd—Wed. 25th Nov.	Grade 5/6 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 use an appropriate voice

	Student	Reason
F	Willow	For consistently making great choices with a quiet, respectful voice in the classroom to help others learn and out in the yard to communicate safely and have fun. Well done, Willow!
1/2JS	Leo	For always choosing the perfect voice level for every activity and helping to keep our classroom a calm, safe and happy place.
1/2M	Amelia B	For helping to maintain a calm classroom through respectful communication. Great job, Amelia!
3/4HP	Jett J	For always using an appropriate voice in the classroom. For always being a respectful and considerate member of the classroom. Well done, Jett!
3/4N	Liam	For learning to use an appropriate voice and waiting his turn to talk.
5/6F	CJ	For consistently using an appropriate voice in the classroom and being a respectful and considerate member of our class. Well done, CJ!
5/6MG	April	For consistently using an appropriate voice in the classroom and for showing respect by speaking kindly to others. Well done, April!

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	Emily C	For representing the Junior Unit as a Kindness Ambassador, spreading kindness and positivity through thoughtful words and actions each day. Amazing work Emily!
Middle Unit	Yahya	For representing the Middle Unit as a Kindness Ambassador. You show kindness in your everyday approach to life, in everything you do. Well done, Yahya.
Senior Unit	Jason	For consistently demonstrating kindness and respect towards others. Your kind words and actions help to create a positive and supportive classroom environment. Well done, Jason!

Congratulations to our award winners!

These awards were presented at our assembly on Friday 7th August 2026

READING AWARDS

Foundation	1/2JS	1/2M	3/4HP	3/4N	5/6MG	5/6F
<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u> Lillian Zoe	<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>50 Nights</u>	<u>50 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u>
<u>150 Nights</u>	Jack R <u>150 Nights</u> Amelia H Salwa Xavier S	<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>150 Nights</u> Lexie V	<u>150 Nights</u>

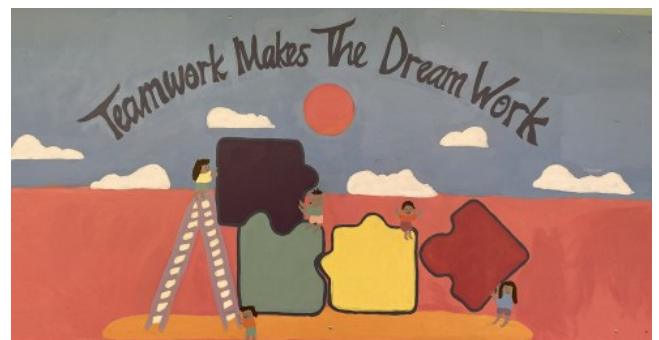
The more that you read, the more things you will know.

The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.



Thank you to our three volunteers who spotted rogue rubbish in the yard and decided to do something about it. Thank you for your initiative and teamwork!

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



Principal's Report



Heathcote Primary School
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One of my favourite things about Heathcote Primary School is the care that is shown towards others. We spoke recently at assembly about letting someone know if you see or hear them doing something great. It was wonderful to hear from a parent about an example of **care and kindness** that happened when a foundation student fell over in the carpark after school. Help was on hand almost immediately with a fellow foundation friend checking that the fallen foundation student was okay and then two of our Grade 6 students escorted the student to his car to make sure he made it safely. No one asked these students to help, they didn't know they were being watched. We speak often about doing the right thing when no one is watching, looking for ways to help and this is just one example of the many ways our students 'step up' each day.

A highlight of my time on yard duty over the past week has been seeing a giant game of Memory Tag taking place on the oval. Approximately 40 students from across all year levels (and some staff too!) have been having a wonderful time playing this fast paced game. It has been a delight to see and hear the sportsmanship, fairness and encouragement of others on display. As one of our Grade 2 students noted and subsequently shared at assembly, everyone was **"being inclusive, participating and following the rules."** These are all expected behaviours from our behaviour matrix. As a school, we've been explicitly teaching these expectations so to see them in action and then hear a student referencing them so clearly and well is terrific.



If you use the **'Drop and Go' zone** in the main carpark, we need your help please. We've noticed that the queue of cars is spilling out onto Herriot Street and cars are parking in the zone before 3pm. The Drop and Go zone was created to provide a quick and convenient drop off / pick up zone for families. It is not a parking space. At assembly, we asked all students who use the zone to go straight to the carpark after school (and not via the playground). We ask that families move into a parking bay if their young person is not waiting for them and that no one pulls into the Drop and Go zone before 3pm. If cars park in the Drop and Go zone, it defeats its purpose whilst also becoming a safety risk with cars spilling out onto Herriot Street. I know that if we work together, we will soon get the Drop and Go zone functioning well again.

As listed in the school calendar, we have a **Real Schools Parent/Carer Information Session** on Wednesday 12th August after school at 3:15pm. Our facilitator is Sheila who has spent time at HPS leading Curriculum Days and time in classrooms working with staff and students. She is back onsite and in classrooms on Wednesday during the day and staying on after school to lead a parent/carers information session. Sheila has put together a short video about the parent/carers information session: <https://youtu.be/9AxOOJlpGRA>. The session will focus on:

- How Heathcote Primary School is building resilience and positive relationships.
- Strategies that both parents and our school can use together that best develop resilient young people.
- Deep knowledge of how we are using restorative practices to build a strong, relational culture.
- How the home environment can contribute best to building a confident, respectful child

We hope that many families can join us at the session.

Jnr Unit Wonderful Water Incursion



Today, we saw people from Coliban Water. They taught us about water. We read a book called 'Water is Water'. We made a water cycle. Water never disappears. I enjoyed making a water cycle.

By Oli O



On Thursday, two people from Coliban Water visited our school. We made a water cycle that took a long time to complete. Then we learnt that we are drinking the same water that the dinosaurs drank!

By Leo

On Thursday we had two people come to teach us about water. We learnt that we are drinking water from when the dinosaurs existed! We had a lot of fun. I enjoyed making the water wheel. I want to see them again because I had so much fun. I had the best time!

By Heidi

At the water incursion, the people read us a book and we learnt about water. We are drinking dinosaur water!

By Ernie

At the water incursion, the Coliban Water people came to HPS to teach us about water. We read a story called 'Water is Water'. We made a water pin wheel and I learnt how water gets to our house and school. I also learnt that we drink the same water that the dinosaurs used to drink! I loved making a water pin wheel.

By Luna

Community Reminders



Heathcote Primary School
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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.

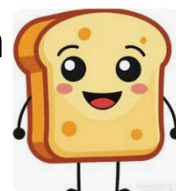
Breakfast Club

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 AT THE PLAYGROUND!

SWAP! TRADE! CONNECT!

near Barrack Reserve

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST 4.30PM
THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST 4.30PM
THURSDAY 27TH 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.

HEATHCOTE PANTHERS SUMMER SEASON

TERM 4 2026 & TERM 1 2027

NOW SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR OUR JUNIOR BASKETBALL SUMMER SEASON

- UNDER 12 BOYS** BORN 2016-2017
- UNDER 14 BOYS** BORN 2014-2015
- UNDER 16 BOYS** BORN 2012-2013

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**

- COMPETITION GAMES ARE PLAYED AT RED ENERGY ARENA, BENDIGO.
- DEVELOP SKILLS, MAKE FRIENDS & BE PART OF A GREAT CLUB COMMUNITY!
- FUN, RESPECT, TEAMWORK & A LOVE FOR THE GAME!

INTERESTED? PLEASE CONTACT:

- ALAN BUTLER 0418 589 020
- KRISTYN CAMPBELL 0418 852 339

LOCATION: BARRACK RESERVE STADIUM, HEATHCOTE.

FOLLOW US! [facebook.com/HeathcotePanthersBasketball](https://www.facebook.com/HeathcotePanthersBasketball)

FREE PLAY GROUP

10am-12pm
Every Wednesday
165 High Street Bunbunarik

St John's Anglican Church Heathcote

TRINITY ACADEMY

Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia proudly presents

2026 CIRCUS QUIRKUS

Circus Quirkus is a one-hour, animal-free, contemporary take on your favourite, traditional circuses of ages past, with an eclectic and entertaining mix of Circus acts from all over the world.

Enjoy a relaxed theatre experience with a casual attitude toward audience noise and movement in an accessible, inclusive environment where everyone is welcome and free to be themselves without restriction or judgement.

One hour show. Suitable for all ages and accessible for people...

- with diverse abilities and backgrounds (wheelchair accessible)
- who might require a more flexible and inclusive environment when attending the theatre (sensory and neurodiverse friendly).
- who are facing hardship.
- who are without access or opportunity to attend live theatre.

*Featuring moving and flashing lights, and upbeat, sometimes dramatic music.

ALL TICKETS ARE COMPLIMENTARY, including parent, sibling and carer tickets. Thanks to sponsorship from local businesses.

*Bookings from schools, organisations, carers and families are all welcome.



Scan the QR Code to visit the shows website and watch highlights from previous shows...



BENDIGO STADIUM (RED ENERGY ARENA)

91 Inglis Street, West Bendigo, VIC

SHOW DATE	SHOWTIME
SATURDAY, 8 TH AUGUST 2026	11.00 AM to 12.00 PM

To book your complimentary tickets, please email your name and the number of tickets required to...

meredithnewman@showintent.com.au

or call / text 0404-367-782



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://carersvictoria.org.au/events>

Mariah's Musicians

facebook.com/mariahsmusicians

MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE WITH MARIAH MCCARTHY

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

Enquire now -
mariahsmccarthy@gmail.com

Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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LIGHTS ON! EXERCISE UNDER LIGHTS AT BARRACK RESERVE.

Get active after dark with the 'Lights On' outdoor fitness sessions at Barrack Reserve.

Join us for a six-week outdoor fitness program for all fitness levels. Sessions will include a mix of cardio, strength and mobility exercises.

When:

From August 3 - September 6.

Where:

Barrack Reserve Netball Court, Heathcote

Time

5.30pm - 6.15pm

Cost:

The City has partnered with Heathcote Health to offer this program for **free**.

Please note that there will be no toilets available on site

Limited spaces are available, so don't wait to book! Scan the QR code to secure your spot



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
- Dhelkaya Health
- Echuca Regional Health
- Maryborough District Health Service
- Njernda 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

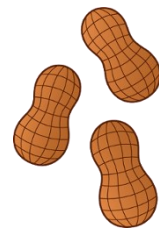
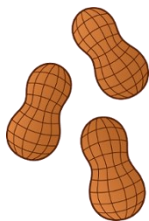


School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618



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

