



Heathcote Primary School Newsletter

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 25

21st August 2026 (Term 3, Week 6)

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 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)
	Thursday 27th August	Senior Library Visits (3/4HP, 3/4N, 5/6F, 5/6MG)
Week 8	Tuesday 1st September	Hats are back! All students are required to wear a broadbrimmed hat when outside
	Wednesday 2nd September	Professional Practice Day—no students at school
Week 9	Thursday 10th September	Junior Unit excursion (notes home 14/8/26)
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?

	Junior Unit Excursion
11th September	Junior Swimming Program (permission note and swimming level form)

Book Week

Symphony of Stories



#CBCA2026

When: Wednesday 26th of August

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

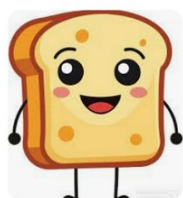
Come dressed as your favourite book character to join in the fun! Families are welcome to come along and watch the parade.

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?

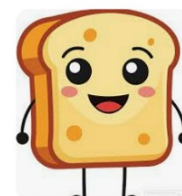
Term 4		
Week 1	Monday 5th October	Start of Term 4
Week 3	Friday 23rd October	Division cricket (Gr 5/6 cricket team)
Week 4	Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct.	Swimming lessons—Foundation, 1/2JS & 1/2M
Week 7	Tues. 17th—Thurs. 19th Nov	Energy Breakthrough Camp (pushcarts)
Week 8	Mon. 23rd—Wed. 25th Nov.	Grade 5/6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

	Student	Reason
F	Oscar	For consistently joining in, having a go and giving your best effort. Well done, Oscar!
1/2JS	Miles	For always being ready to participate, learn and have a go.
1/2M	Charlie	For actively joining in and making the most of every learning opportunity. Awesome effort, Charlie!
3/4HP	Jaimee	For participating and trying your best in all learning areas. You are always willing to have a go.
3/4N	Lachlan	For always participating and trying his best in all learning opportunities. Well done, Lachlan!
5/6F	Teddy	For consistently participating, sharing your ideas and contributing to our classroom learning. Well done, Teddy!
5/6MG	Hailee	For consistently participating in all school activities, sharing your ideas and encouraging your peers. Great job, Hailee

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	Creed	For representing the Junior Unit as a Kindness Ambassador, spreading kindness and positivity through thoughtful words and actions each day.
Middle Unit	Occy	Occy, well done for encouraging others in the classroom. Your kind and positive words help your classmates feel supported.
Senior Unit	Ben J	For your kindness and thoughtfulness towards others, always making sure everyone feels included. Well done, Ben!

Congratulations to our award winners!

These awards were presented at our assembly on Friday 21st August 2026

READING AWARDS

Foundation	1/2JS	1/2M	3/4HP	3/4N	5/6MG	5/6F
<u>100 Nights</u> Ira	<u>50 Nights</u> Leo	<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u> Alex	<u>50 Nights</u>	<u>50 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u>
<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u> Miles	<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>200 Nights</u> Angelo

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

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



Jett T

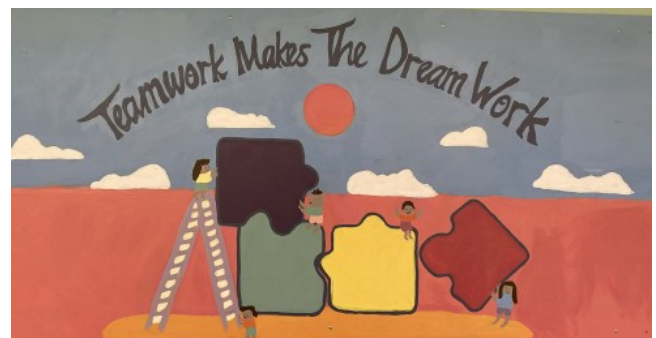
April

Evelyn N



*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)*

*Congratulations to this week's
award recipients!*



Principal's Report



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Science Week was a hit! Thank you to the many families who joined in the fun of completing science experiments at home and/or attending our science afternoon. We had volcanoes, a hydraulic claw, lava lamps, circuits powered by lemons and much more! Congratulations to our students for embracing the world of science with such enthusiasm and building their knowledge of key concepts along the way. A huge thank you to Dave, Larissa and Kirsty for leading the event and making the week possible. More photos are on the next page!



At our last School Council meeting, we discussed the future of our **school Facebook** page. We currently have a closed group page with membership restricted to people directly connected with Heathcote PS. When we introduced Facebook to our school communication channels, we made the deliberate decision not to have a public Facebook page as a means of protecting the privacy of students online. We have now made the decision to remove our Facebook page. This decision is based on feedback received from the communication survey completed by families earlier this year combined with the introduction of Class Dojo. It reduces our use of social media and aligns with our ongoing commitment to protecting the privacy and wellbeing of our students. We have two main platforms for sharing information with families; **Compass** and **Class Dojo**. Families are encouraged to ensure they have access to both platforms so that important information is received promptly.

Compass

- Student absences, late arrivals and/or early departures
- School newsletter
- Student reports
- Student learning conversation and partnership meeting bookings

Class Dojo

- Classroom updates about learning and activities
- Reminders about upcoming events
- Student learning portfolios
- Home / school communication messaging

A number of projects are underway in the school yard. Many people will have already noticed the new **fencing** being installed next to the staff car park near the office area and the boundary near The Residence. The fencing will bring multiple benefits including improved student safety and security. Additionally, **netball and basketball rings** will soon be installed in the small netball court area. They have been purchased using part of our successful Active Schools grant application. We're on track for the major part of the grant—resurfacing of the basketball court in the September school holidays.

Book Week is on the horizon, with our Dress Up day taking place on Wednesday with a parade at 9:05am on the astroturf. See you there!

Learning—Science Week



Community Connections & Fire Safety



Last Friday, we had a CFA incursion where we learnt how to be fire safe. We learnt how to use a fire blanket and got taught how to know if a spot is a fire hotspot. We also got to practice using a fire blanket by putting out a fake fire in a pot.

The CFA brought in a smoke alarm and showed us how it works; they said smoke alarms should be tested two times a year. We also got to go on the fire truck.

We thank Heathcote CFA so much.

By Em-Rose and Jax

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.

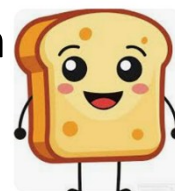
Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Thursday

8:40am—8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available





Heathcote Primary School Foundation 2027 Transition Program

Inviting all 2027 Foundation
students to join us for a series of
transition visits as part of preparing
for future school life.

Friday 16th October, 9:15am – 10:15am

Thursday 29th October, 9:15am – 10:15am

Friday 12th November, 9am – 10:30am

Wednesday 25th November, 9am – 11am

Tuesday 8th December, 9am – 12pm*

Please bring a fruit snack, drink bottle
(with water) and broad brimmed hat.

*Lunch required for the longer day



Heathcote Primary School
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Phone: (03) 5433 3090

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

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 PLAYGROUP

10am-12pm Every Wednesday
165 High Street Bunbunarik

St John's Anglican Church Heathcote

TRINITY ACADEMY

Community Happenings



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FREE ONE HOUR SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES TERM THREE 2026

The Local is offering one-hour sessions on topics for building skills in relationships and wellbeing during the September school holidays. And they are Free and open to children 4-11.

The sessions are fun, educational and a safe space to explore the topics listed below. You will gain skills to apply at home to help build confidence with these topics.

Staff from the Child Health and Wellbeing local will run the sessions and answer questions throughout.

Groups are small: five children with one parent per child attending.

TOPICS and DATES

21st Sept, Mon Bendigo, **Magnificent Me**, at the Local 10.30am **4-6 year olds**; learn to celebrate your unique qualities and build your self-esteem.

30th Sept Wed Bendigo, **Managing Feelings**, at the Local 10.30am **4-6 year olds**; 1.30pm **7-11 year olds**. Learning about what happens in your body when you have big feelings, what you can do to help yourself cope.

2nd Oct Fri Bendigo, **Building Social Skills** 10.30am **4-6 year olds**, 1.30pm **7-11 year olds**. Learn about friendships, what is helpful and when boundaries might be needed.

Bookings are essential:

Please call Annette or admin on 1800 433 977 or email us which sessions you want to attend, your child's name and age, your name and contact details including telephone number and email address, icfhlocals@bchs.com.au.

We will be in touch prior to the session to confirm details including how to access the venue.



In partnership with Bendigo Health, Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Echuca Regional Health, North Central LLEN Maryborough District Health, Dhehkaya Health and Omnia Community Health

The Children's Health and Wellbeing Local is jointly funded by the Victorian Government and the Australian Government through the Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub initiative.

OFFICIAL

Community Happenings



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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

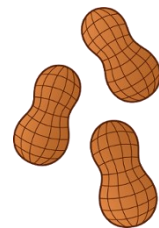
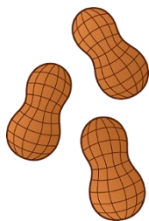


School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618



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

