



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 27

10th September 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 9	Monday 15th September	Hats are back! Division Athletics (Grade 4-6 students)	
	Wednesday 17th September	Boys to the Bush Community Engagement Day (Grade 6s, permission notes sent home)	
	Friday 19th September	Sports Colours and Hot Pie Day (a JSC led initiative) Last Day of Term 3. Early Dismissal at 2pm.	
Term 4 Week 1	Monday 6th October	Term 4 Starts	
Week 2	Friday 17th October	Foundation 2026 Transition Session #1 (flyer included in newsletter with additional dates and details)	
Week 4	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October	Swimming—Group 1 (Grade 3, 4,5 & 6 students)	
Week 9 & Week 11	Tuesday 2nd December, Monday 15th December to Thursday 18th December	Swimming—Group 2 (Foundation, Grade 1 & 2 students)	

2025 - What's Due?

Hot Pie Day order form

Friday 12th September



Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

<u>TEAMWORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Masie	Riley	Noah Ba	Teddy
Ruby	Layla P	Hazel P	Ashley
Isla	Kaylee	Jaimee	Leo
Miles	Reynald	Liam H	Evie

Teddy - Learning Award for being willing to take on new challenges.

Ashley - Learning Award for always trying your best.

Layla P - Respect Award for consistently using appropriate and respectful language.

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

Riley - Respect Award for consistently using appropriate and respectful language.

Noah Ba - Responsibility Award for demonstrating responsible behaviours.

Miles - Teamwork award for encouraging others.

Reynald - Respect Award for acknowledging own effort.

Masie - Teamwork Award for contributing well to group activities.

Hazel - Responsibility Award for showing responsibility when asked to complete a task.

Ruby - Teamwork Award for considering other people's feelings

Leo - Learning Award for showing great improvement.

Evie - Learning award for always trying your best.

Jaimee - Responsibility Award for showing responsibility when asked to complete a task.

Liam H - Responsibility Award for being responsible when working with others.

Isla - Teamwork award for encouraging others.

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

****Assembly starts at 2:30pm****

AWARDS

TEAMWORK

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING

BRONZE LEVEL

Noah C
Jason
Storm

Cooper
Ace

Evelyn O
Lachlan D
Lina

Leo
Liam H

SILVER LEVEL

Ben J
Hunter C
Storm
Hailee
Charlotte D

Alexandra
Bethany
Occy
Luna

Ellie
Jessica
Liam B
Nathan
Layla S
Jaimee
Charlotte D

Lilah
Jett J
Savannah
Freddie
Jeerapatra
Aurora

GOLD LEVEL

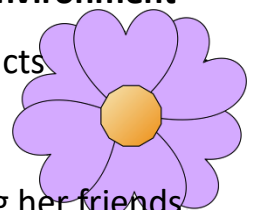
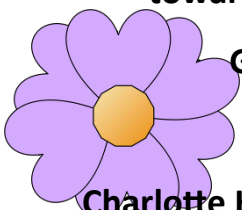
Hailee
Alexander
Zoe

Kindness Ambassador Award

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

Georgia - You were caught consistently demonstrating acts of kindness.

Charlotte H - For showing kindness and compassion by supporting her friends.



Junior School Council News

JSC is holding a Favourite Sports Colours day. Whip out your favourite sports colours and wear them to school. Whether they are footy, netball, basketball or rugby colours, your choice!

When: **Friday 19th September 2025.**

We will be having a **hot pie day** too.

All donations will go to our wonderful Heathcote Community House.

Thank you for all your support,

JSC



HEATHCOTE PANTHERS SUMMER SEASON

Term 4 2025 -Term 1 2026

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

Under 10 Boys born 2017-2018

Under 12 Boys born 2015-2016

Under 14 Boys born 2013-2014

TRAINING

SCHEDULE:

Under 10 Monday 4pm - 5pm

Under 12 Monday 4pm - 5pm

Under 14 Monday 5pm - 6pm

++ 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

- Expressions close
Sept 20th 2025

www.facebook.com/HeathcotePanthersBasketball

LOCATION:

Barrack Reserve Stadium, Heathcote.

Principal's Report

It was wonderful to see so many families join us for our [Father's Day breakfast](#) last Friday (photos on page 6). Thank you to everyone who came along, to Brooke for leading the team of chefs and the chefs for 'cheffing', Coles Mclvor Road for their donation of sausages, bacon, rolls, sauces and the Connolly family for providing the eggs. There was a line for seconds (and thirds!) and not an ounce of food was left by the time 9am rolled around.

A random act of kindness occurred this week when a new [stop sign](#) turned up unexpectedly at school. One minute it wasn't there and the next it was! We don't know the identify of the stop sign supplier and hope that this message of thanks reaches them. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness! Our dutiful rake that has been masquerading as a stop sign has now returned to full time garden duties.

Another random act of kindness was shown by the Grade 5/6 Team who worked together to make enough cupcakes for everyone in the school. Their kindness was greatly appreciated and part of highlighting the importance of connection, conversation and care as part of [R U OK? Day](#).



This year will see some changes to our [swimming program](#). After feedback from students, staff and families, School Council investigated a variety of options. The option identified as meeting our needs best means a change in venue and structure of the program. Swimming lessons will take place in Kyneton and over a more condensed time frame. For example, our senior students will have daily swimming lessons over five days in the same week. Our junior students will do similar with four lessons over four days and one lesson in another week. My thanks to School Council and Nina for their research and time spent exploring options and co-ordinating bookings and buses. Further details, including permission notes, will be sent home in Term 4.

Carolyn

Celebrating Father's Day

We celebrated Father's Day, fathers and father figures in our school community with a BBQ breakfast. Thank you to everyone who joined us for breakfast, to the chefs for 'cheffing', Coles McIvor Road for the donation of sausages, bacon, rolls, sauces and the Connolly family for providing the eggs. There was not an ounce of food left when 9am rolled around!



Wellbeing

New Support Services Hub for Families

At Heathcote Primary School, we care deeply about the wellbeing of every child in our community. We know that sometimes families may have concerns about their child's mental health or just need some extra support. We are pleased to let families know that we now have a Support Services Hub page available on our school website. It's a great place to start if you're looking for advice, guidance, or someone to talk to.

You can access the Support Services Hub here:

👉 [Support Services Hub – Heathcote Primary School](#)

We encourage you to visit the hub and keep it handy for when you might need it. Together, we can help all our students feel happy, healthy, and confident at school and beyond.

If you have any questions 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



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Support Services Hub

Parent Support Hub

Raising Children Network

The Raising Children Network provides ad-free parenting videos, articles and apps based on the latest research. <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

Emerging Minds Families

Emerging Minds works with families and professionals and draws on the latest research to help families and professionals understand and support children's mental health as they navigate the ups and downs of daily life.

<https://emergingminds.com.au/families/>

What is Children's Mental Health? Video

<https://emergingminds.com.au/families/understanding-and-supporting-childrens-mental-health/>

Beyond Blue – Parenting and Mental Health

Provisional Psychologist

Our school is participating in a partnership with Federation University through their Fed-Care Psychology Services. This means we have a provisional psychologist placed at our school who can work one-on-one with students to provide short-term support, under the supervision of an experienced clinical psychologist. In Term 3, we welcomed Izzy to the HPS team.

A message from Izzy:

Hi Heathcote PS!

I'm Izzy, I'll be working at Heathcote PS as a provisional psychologist every Tuesday. I'm a mature-age student who returned to study after a career in advertising and becoming a mum to two beautiful boys. Working in education is a passion of mine, and I am currently working at another primary school in an Education Support (ES) role alongside my provisional psychologist position. I have worked across all year levels within the school, but most recently in a 5/6 classroom.

I'm genuinely excited to become part of your school community over the coming months.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Our expected behaviours matrix has been finalised and published. Copies are displayed in all learning areas and the main office. As part of our SWPBS work, students are explicitly taught what the expected behaviour looks like at school. Our values cards can be earned by students when they demonstrate expected behaviours.

Values in action spotted this recently include...



We follow classroom expectations



We use manners and kind words



Thank you for demonstrating our school values!



HEATHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL RESPECT • LEARNING • TEAMWORK • RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING

ALWAYS

INSIDE

OUTSIDE

RESPECT

We use an appropriate voice

We follow classroom expectations

We leave nature in nature

We use manners and kind words

We walk

We share our spaces

We follow instructions

We keep our hands and feet to ourselves

TEAMWORK

We are inclusive

We pack up

We choose teams fairly

We share

We determine and play by the rules

We wait our turn

RESPONSIBILITY

We use equipment for its intended purpose

We use materials for their intended purpose

We return our sports equipment

We arrive on time

We participate

We look after school property

We place rubbish in the correct bin

We use our 'calm down' strategies

Real Schools

We are a [Real Schools](#) partner school, in the first year of our three year partnership. The Real Schools team works with over 500 schools across Australia and New Zealand and have a dedicated set of resources and articles for families for schools to include in their newsletters so families can learn more about the work.



THE CHEAT SHEET

1. Antecedents – triggers and conditions before a problem
2. Behaviour – the actual and observable act
3. Consequences – the natural and imposed results of the behaviour or what we do to respond



Punishment is something done to us, not with us! And if we remember back to our childhood or own classroom experiences, it didn't deter us from the original behaviour it just made us better at not getting caught or completing the punishment quickly. Who cheated on the lines punishment by writing all the 'I's then the 'will's? Didn't stop us from running though!

Why do we want to use natural consequences instead of punishment?

We want children to stop or change their behaviour because they want to, not because of a punishment. Behavioural Scientists tell us that no behaviours – not one – will change without there being a change in the antecedent structure, meaning that if we know what's going on we can prevent negative behaviour from occurring in the first place and if needed, respond appropriately if a consequence is required. If we approach each situation with curiosity, we can learn the antecedent more readily.

At school, examples of natural consequences or outcomes of behaviour might include:

- Apologising for the impact of a behaviour as part of repairing the relationship
- Cleaning up a mess that was made deliberately
- Giving something back to the school after damaging school property. For example, helping to tidy the school yard or weed the garden

Natural consequences are connected to the behaviour, age appropriate and designed to teach responsibility and encourage better future behaviour.

“

We can be busy with the behaviour and miss the opportunity to find the trigger.

What does it look like at home and school?

HOME Default Statement	HOME Restorative Statement	SCHOOL Default Statement	SCHOOL Restorative Statement
“Stop thumping your sister”	“Your sister is hurt, tell me what happened?”	“Stop calling him names”	“You seem frustrated, what's the story?”
“Give the toy back”	“You have your brother's toy, how can I help?”	“I told you to line up”	“You're out of line, how can I help?”
“You broke the plate”	“What do you know about the broken plate?”	“Give his pencil back”	“His pencil is missing, what do you know about it?”

Will you be at HPS in 2026?

It might only be Term 3 but planning for 2026 has already started.

Term 3 is when schools must submit their projected enrolment numbers for the following year to the Department of Education. It is also the term when we receive our indicative budget for the year ahead. We use these pieces of information to inform our planning, including how many classes we will run and how many staff we can employ for the following year.

If you, or someone you know, is planning to enrol at Heathcote PS in 2026 and have not yet completed an enrolment form, please do so as soon as possible. Forms are available from the office.

If your child*/ren will not be returning to Heathcote PS in 2026, please inform the school as soon as possible

(*excluding Grade 6 students).

A difference of as little as five children across the school has a huge impact on what is possible and the more informed we are, the better decisions we can make.

PS: We understand plans can change at the last minute and there is always flexibility in our planning.



Heathcote Primary School Foundation 2026 Transition Program

Inviting all 2026 Foundation students to join us for a series of transition visits as part of preparing for future school life.

Friday 17th October, 9:15am – 10:30am

Thursday 30th October, 9:15am – 11am

Friday 14th November, 9:15am – 11am

Tuesday 25th November, 9:15am – 11am

Tuesday 9th December, 9:15am – 12pm*

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

*Lunch required for the longer day



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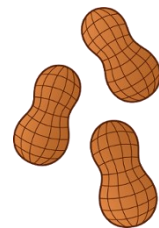
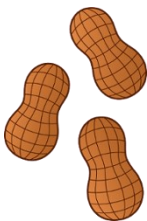
Email: heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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



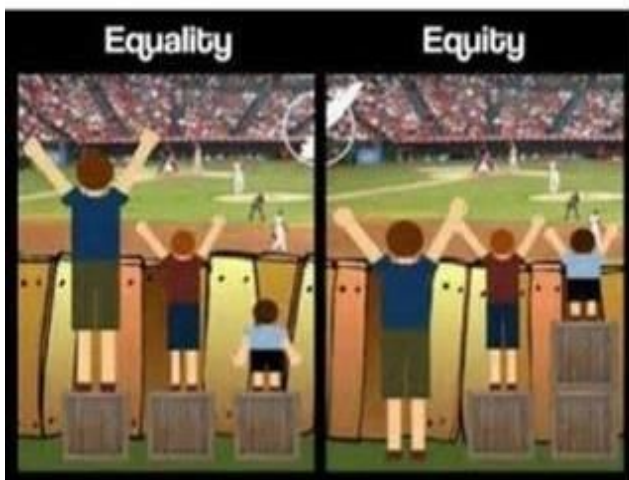
**Remember,
only WATER
in your drink
bottle at school.**



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



PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe
and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that
makes you feel unsafe or afraid,
including anyone in your family,
anyone at school or anywhere else
in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your
school if you feel unsafe.



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



FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

