



Heathcote Primary School

Newsletter

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 28

11th September 2026 (Term 3, Week 9)

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 10	Monday 7th September	Hats are back! All students are required to wear a broadbrimmed hat when outside as part of our sun protection policy.
	Thursday 17th September	Library visits (3/4HP, 3/4N, 5/6F, 5/6MG) Pyjamas & Plushies Day (gold coin donation, details p2)
	Thursday 17th September	
	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	Junior Swimming Program (permission note and swimming level form)
Wed. 16th September	Alpha productions payment (if not already paid through parent payment)
Fri. 18th September	Parent/Carer Opinion Survey Responses DUE (please see Compass for details)

THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER
(second last day of Term 3)
JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL
NEWS
PJs & SOFT TOY DAY

Junior School Council is organising a Pjs and Soft Toy Day. Wear your favourite pjs and bring along your most adored soft toy. We are raising money for St. Vincent De Paul, Heathcote. They provide all the yummy fruit students eat every day at school.

St Vincent de Paul also offers a variety of services aimed at helping individuals and families in need. The fundraiser will be Thursday 17th September, 2026. If you would like to take part in this fun day then please bring along a gold coin donation.

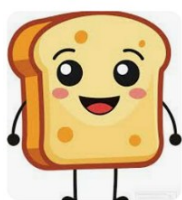
On behalf of Junior School Council,

Georgia, Evelyn N and Jessica



What's Happening in Term 4, 2026?

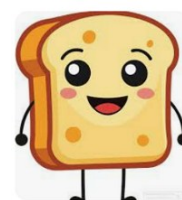
Term 4	Monday 5th October	Start of Term 4
Week 1	Thursday 8th October	Alpha Production (performance, offsite, local excursion)
Week 3	Friday 23rd October	Division cricket (Gr 5/6 cricket team)
Week 4	Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct.	Swimming lessons—Foundation, 1/2JS & 1/2M
	Wednesday 28th October	Parent Information Session @ 2pm (details on page 12) Focus: Neurodiversity, Autism and ADHD
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
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

VALUES AWARDS

SWPBS Focus: We use manners and kind words

	Student	Reason
F	Willow	For always using kind words, showing wonderful manners and treating everyone with kindness, respect and care. Well done, Willow!
1/2JS	Ruby	For always speaking kindly and using wonderful manners. Well done, Ruby!
1/2M	Tayte	For consistently using kind words and showing excellent manners when interacting with others. Great job, Tayte!
3/4HP	Yahya	For consistently using manners and kind words with others.
3/4N	Nathan	For always using manners and kindness when interacting with others. Great work, Nathan!
5/6F	Charlotte H	For consistently showing kindness and respect through your kind words and manners. Well done, Charlotte!
5/6MG	Griffin	For showing kindness and using manners when interacting with others. You spread joy and happiness around the school. Well done, Griffin!

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	Cierra	For representing the Junior Unit as a Kindness Ambassador, spreading kindness and positivity through thoughtful words and actions each day. Amazing job Cierra!
Middle Unit	William	For speaking to the office staff with kindness and in a calm manner. William always shows respect for others in the office. Well done, William.
Senior Unit	Lilah	Your caring and thoughtful actions impart kindness to those you interact with. You are a wonderful role model for our school. Well done, Lilah.

Congratulations to our award winners!

These awards were presented at our assembly on Friday 11th September 2026

READING AWARDS

Foundation	1/2JS	1/2M	3/4HP	3/4N	5/6MG	5/6F
<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>150 Nights</u> Ernie	<u>150 Nights</u>	<u>200 Nights</u> Jaimee	<u>100 Nights</u>	<u>200 Nights</u>	<u>100 Nights</u>
	<u>200 Nights</u>	<u>200 Nights</u>				<u>200 Nights</u>

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

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



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

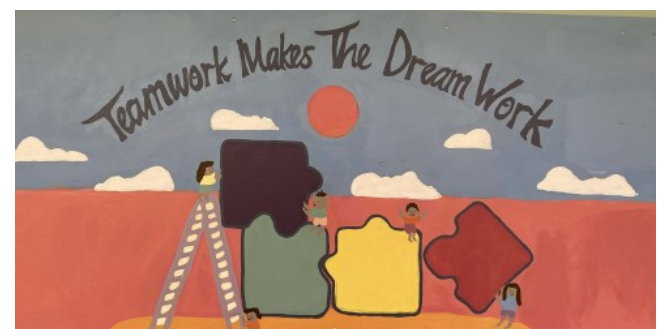


Oli O



*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



Heathcote Primary School
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What a week! It is amazing what can be packed into five school days. Our Junior Unit students headed to Bendigo as part of their inquiry into the past, our Grade 3/4s also made the trip to Bendigo to participate in a STEM excursion focusing on sustainability, Grade 3-6 students highlighted the importance of kindness, connection, friendship and taking time to look out for each other as part of our RUOK? Day activities with normal classroom programs continuing alongside these **extra curricular activities**. A busy and productive week with some tired faces by Friday.

You can read about the highlights from the F-2 excursion on page 8. Thank you to the Junior Unit team, Dave and 3/4 team for the preparation and planning to enable students to participate in the excursions and for the energy on the day.

Every day is RUOK? Day at Heathcote PS, with people regularly checking in on others. Last Thursday provided an opportunity to formally shine the spotlight on wellbeing as part of the RUOK? national day of action. Thank you to our wellbeing leader, Christy, for leading the organisation of the day, all staff who led an activity and students for embracing the day with their trademark kindness. The final words of the day go to one of our Grade 3 students who headed home reflecting, "That was the best school day ever!"



Our newly installed **basketball and netball rings** are proving very popular. We have six new rings in the mini netball space. The placement of the rings provides more options for students to participate in basketball or netball at break times and/or PE lessons. The basketball rings with backboards have been deliberately placed at different heights to make the space more inclusive for ages and skill levels. It has been a joy to see students enjoying using the new rings and sharing the space so responsibly. Pausing to watch students playing, many examples of expected behaviours from our matrix (included on page 13) are on display, including, 'we share our spaces', 'we are inclusive', 'we determine and play by the rules', 'we participate' and 'we choose teams fairly'. It has been wonderful to see students enthusiastically making use of the new facilities, developing their skills and, most importantly, having fun while being active. Please see page 10 for photos.

It has been a busy and rewarding term and everyone has certainly earned the chance to slow down and recharge during the upcoming holiday break. With just a few days remaining, we encourage everyone to keep going, finish strong and make the most of these final days together. There is still plenty of learning, laughter and connection to enjoy, including pyjamas and soft toy day on Thursday. My thanks in advance to our Junior School Council for organising the day!

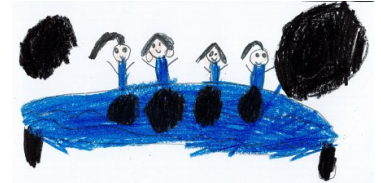
Learning—Junior Unit Excursion



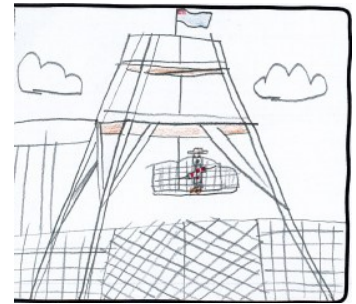
My favourite thing on the Goldfields excursion was...



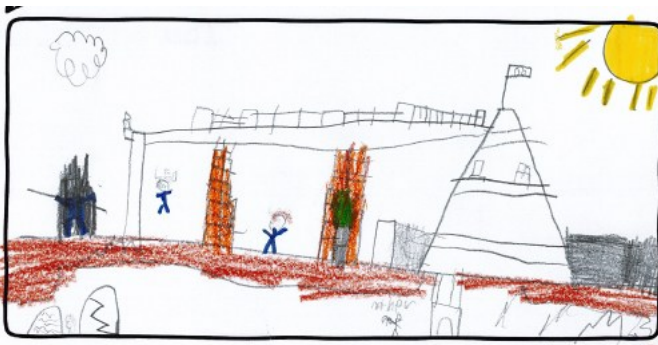
Panning for gold. I found a spec of gold! I also liked looking in the changeroom's.



going to the park and going over the spillway and panning for gold.



Pressing buttons in the museum, looking at the giant gold nugget



Written and illustrated by students in 1/2JS and 1/2M

Wellbeing—RUOK? Day

Before...



After...



New Basketball and Netball Rings



Our break times just got a whole lot more active! We are very excited about the installation of our six new basketball and netball rings as part of our Active Schools grant funding. Students helped decide which rings to purchase and are pretty happy with the outcome!



Transitioning into 2027...

Enrolments & Departures

If you, or someone you know, is planning to enrol a child at Heathcote PS in 2027 and have not yet completed an enrolment form, please do so as soon as possible. Forms are available from the office and [school website](#).

If your child*/ren will not be returning to Heathcote PS in 2027, please inform the school as soon as possible (*excluding Grade 6 students).

Enrolment projections determine our indicative budget and 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. 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.

Classroom Placement Requests

We start working on class lists for 2027 very early in Term 4. The process is complex with one underlying key focus—what will work best for our students. When creating classes, multiple factors are taken into consideration, including friendships, academic abilities, behaviour and additional needs along with trying to create classes balanced by gender and size. It's not an easy or quick process and there are many drafts before landing on the final class lists. If you have a request you would like considered, please email carolyn.crowther@education.vic.gov.au by Friday 30th October 2026.

Submitting a request does not guarantee that it will be able to be met. Please note, that with the exception of Foundation, we do not know which teachers will be teaching which year level/s yet and **requests for teachers are unable to be considered.**

You can read about our classroom placement policy [HERE](#)

Key Transition Dates

Foundation 2026 Transition Program: Five sessions, starting Friday 16th October (full details on page 12)

October and November: Multiple opportunities for students to spend time with their 2027 cohort (this happens on the same days we host the 2027 Foundation transition sessions)

Monday 7th December: Students find out their 2027 class and teacher/s

Tuesday 8th December: All students spend time in their 2027 class with their classmates. Grade 6 students (Year 7 in 2027) attend a statewide transition at government secondary schools.



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
Respect – Learning – Teamwork – Responsibility

Phone: (03) 5433 3090

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



HEATHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESPECT • LEARNING • TEAMWORK • RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING

ALWAYS

We use an appropriate voice

We use manners and kind words

We follow instructions

We keep our hands and feet to ourselves

INSIDE

We follow classroom expectations

We walk

We leave nature in nature

We share our spaces

OUTSIDE

RESPECT

TEAMWORK

We are inclusive

We share

We wait our turn

We pack up

We choose teams fairly

We determine and play by the rules

RESPONSIBILITY

We use equipment for its intended purpose

We arrive on time

We look after school property

We place rubbish in the correct bin

We use our 'calm down' strategies

We use materials for their intended purpose

We participate

We return our sports equipment

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



Heathcote Primary School
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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.

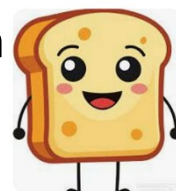
Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Thursday

8:40am—8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available



Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SORTED

PLAY.AFL/HOLIDAYPROGRAMS

BENDIGO AFL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER | 9AM-3PM
BACKHAUS OVAL, BENDIGO
BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 4-12
\$55 PER PERSON - FOOTY TO KEEP!



Free Parent Information Session

Wednesday 28th October 2026
2pm in the Kitchen

Neurodiversity, Autism and ADHD explained

Brought to you by the Loddon Child Health and Wellbeing Local
Parent Program Coordinator
Annette Clemment

The term neurodiversity is used now for several conditions like autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, tourette's and so on. The most commonly diagnosed, are autism and ADHD.

This session focuses on these two conditions and how you can help someone cope in a world that is not build for neurodiversity.

Come along to explore this topic and ask questions to help you support your child.

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?	ALAN BUTLER	0418 589 020
PLEASE CONTACT:	KRISTYN CAMPBELL	0418 852 339

LOCATION: BARRACK RESERVE STADIUM, HEATHCOTE.

FOLLOW US!
facebook.com/HeathcotePanthersBasketball

FREE PLAY GROUP

10am-12pm
Every Wednesday
165 High Street Bunbunarik

St John's Anglican Church Heathcote **TRINITY ACADEMY**

Holiday Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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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

Holiday Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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TERM 3 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS



**Camp & Adventure
Accredited
Business**



SCAN ME

REGISTER NOW!

LA TROBE SPORT

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED THESE HOLIDAYS



JOIN US FOR TWO DAYS OF
JAM-PACKED ACTION - REGISTER NOW!

- Tuesday 29th Sept - Thursday 1st Oct**
- 8:30am - 4pm**
- Bendigo Sports Centre**
- SPORT & ACTIVITIES**
- QUALIFIED STAFF**
- ACCREDITED PROGRAM**



LA TROBE
SPORT



School Holiday Program Highlights



Writing & Sketching with Jess McGeachin

We are delighted to welcome wonderful children's author and illustrator Jess McGeachin! Drawing quite literally from a day job at Melbourne Museum, Jess loves sharing stories about hidden worlds, sometimes magical and sometimes real!

Monster Making

What makes a good monster in a story? Are they hairy, scary, or just misunderstood? Jess will help you find monster inspiration in stories to design your own spooky (or very friendly) monster. Ages 5-8 years.

Wed 30 Sep, 10-11am
Bendigo Library



Drawn to Nature

Stuck for ideas? The natural world is full of inspiration just waiting to be found. Discover some amazing places and animals, learn how to keep a sketchbook and understand the importance of inspiring others to care for the environment. Ages 8-13 years.

Wed 30 Sep, 11.30am-12.30pm
Bendigo Library



Wed 30 Sep, 2-3pm
Kangaroo Flat Library



Pop-Up Museum Dinosaurs, Megafauna & More

Journey back through time and get up close and personal with touchable fossils, collection objects, taxidermy and activities supported by Museums Victoria educators. Ages 5-13 and families. 30-minute timeslots available. Book to confirm your spot, or drop-in and try your luck!

Mon 28 Sep, 11am-2pm
Bendigo Library



Full school holiday program:
ncgrl.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram



BOOKINGS REQUIRED
www.goldfieldslibraries.com

Community Happenings



Heathcote Primary School
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Robot attack!

No bookings
necessary



Heathcote Library

Tuesday 29 September
10.30-11.30am & 11.30am-12.30pm

Simple flower press

Heathcote Library

Friday 2 October, 10-11am



Bookings
ncgrl.vic.gov.au

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
- Njemda 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



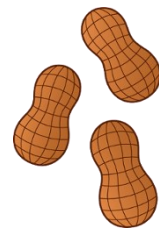
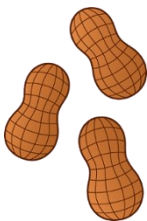
Updated February 2025

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.](#)

The Scholastic logo, featuring a red book icon and the word 'SCHOLASTIC' in white on a red background.

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

A black button with the text 'GET IT ON Google play'.

A black button with the Apple logo and the text 'Download on the App Store'.