



Heathcote Primary School

News

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Issue No. 29

10th October 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 2	Wednesday 15th October	Chick'n Lickin Hot Lunch Day (Grades 3 to 6 students)
	Thursday 16th October	Chick'n Lickin Hot Lunch Day (Foundation to Grade 2 students)
	Friday 17th October	Foundation 2026 Transition Session #1 (9:15am—10:30am)
Week 3	Thursday 23rd October	Musical performance @ 2:25pm (performed by Mariah's musicians and Heathcote in Harmony choir)
	Friday 24th October	Grade 3—6 Excursion to Melbourne (details coming)
Week 4	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October	Swimming—Group 1 (Grade 3, 4,5 & 6 students)
	Thursday 30th October	Foundation 2026 Transition Session #2 (9:15am—11am)
Week 5	Tuesday 4th November	Melbourne Cup / Heathcote Show Public Holiday
	Friday 7th November	Bendigo SC Transition Session (students attending BSE in 2026)
Week 9 & Week 11	Tuesday 2nd December, Monday 15th December to Thursday 18th December	Swimming—Group 2 (Foundation, Grade 1 & 2 students)
Week 10	Thursday 11th December	Grade 6 Graduation
Week 11	Friday 19th December	End of Term 4. Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm

2025 - What's Due?

OVERDUE (Due 10th October)

Swimming permission notes (Gr 3—6 students)

Principal's Report

Welcome to Term 4! It is a term where hard work from throughout the year comes together, with goals achieved, projects brought to life and milestones such as graduation are celebrated. It is also a term where we focus on setting up for a successful transition to the following year. An exciting and full term awaits us!

One project coming to life is the Chick'n Lickin hot lunch, spread across two days next week. The idea has been months in the making and is entirely student led. The orders have been hand delivered and we are eagerly awaiting their arrival.

We are proud of the way our students look for opportunities to lead change and make a positive impact within the school. From smaller initiatives that can be achieved in a day to large projects that take months to transpire, these initiatives provide students with experience planning, problem solving, decision making, collaborating and often combine literacy and numeracy skills.

Thank you to the 57 households who were able to complete the Department of Education's annual parent / caregiver survey. It is the highest response rate in many years and gives us a solid base of information. Stay tuned for more details of the responses over the coming weeks.

With music playing in the background, our Foundation students spent their weekly PMP (perceptual motor program) working on balance, locomotion and hand/eye, foot/eye co-ordination. There were smiles all round as new skills were mastered.

We are looking forward to welcoming our future Foundation students on Friday with the first transition session running. Please see the information on pages 7 and 8 for more details about the transition process.

With so many events taking place this term, please keep a close eye on the calendar of events on the front of the newsletter. I'm looking forward to seeing what we achieve together in Term 4!



Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility



Maths Club is being launched in Term 4. It is an opportunity for students to spend extra time working on their maths goal/s. To attend, students must be registered using the link in the flyer below.

Maths Club

An opportunity to work mathematically with your mates!

Wednesdays @ 8:15am to 8:45am
Heathcote PS Kitchen
Grade 3 - 6 Students

Grade 3 - 6 students are invited to spend time working on their maths goals with support from Heathcote PS staff.

Maths + Mates + Milo = See you there!

Register [HERE](#)

WHAT DID THE ZERO SAY TO THE 8?
NOT NULL!

No. Sheep in Farmer Bob's top field

Day	No. Sheep
A	10
T	15
W	20
T	25
F	30
S	35

Baa Graph

Why is the number six so scared?
Because seven eight nine!

Maths jokes and puns included as a bonus!

What do you get when you cross a maths teacher with a clock?
Answer: Mathema-ticks!



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 health as they navigate the ups and downs of daily life.
<https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

Emerging Minds Families

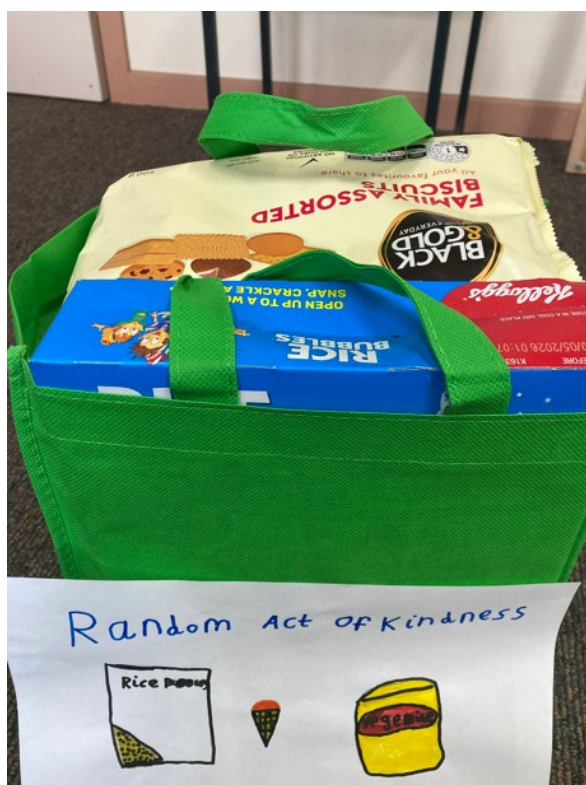
Emerging Minds works with families and professionals and draws on the latest research health as they navigate the ups and downs of daily life.

<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



We have some goody bags filled with groceries that are looking for their forever homes.

Please drop into the office to collect a bag if you would like one.

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 (picture below) can be earned by students when they demonstrate expected behaviours. Student leaders collect and count the values cards each week at their leadership meeting and have suggested a weekly lucky dip; all values cards earned in the week will be placed in a tub and two winners randomly drawn out at assembly, earning themselves a 'values voucher'.



This week's example of values in action is a little bit different—nature needed some help to return to nature! Two feathered visitors found themselves trapped in the chimney of the admin building. A recovery mission was launched and they were soon back outside.



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		



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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. We also have a page on our school website [HERE](#) with information.



Getting Primed


PARENT ARTICLE

QUICK SUMMARY

1. Language and choice of words influence behaviour
2. Priming increases the likelihood a behaviour will occur
3. Affective (feeling) words complement priming language
4. Talk to the behaviour you want to see



What's the trick to getting your kids to do more of what you want **without the nagging?**

Priming is a psychological phenomenon that allows us to influence the unconscious brain and the actions of our children. By using the right words we can increase the probability of getting the behaviour we desire. In a nice way it is manipulating our kids to do what we want, when we want, without them even knowing about it.

How does positive priming work?

Our world is full of negative words and demands. Think about recent interactions with our children. We often resort to 'Stop that', 'Don't do that', 'No you can't.' When we say 'Stop running' the only word heard is *running* and this causes the brain to send the message that running is ok. By changing our words and adding a feeling (affective) word we are wiring the brain to a different outcome.

What does it look like at home and school?

HOME		SCHOOL	
Default Statement	Priming Statement	Default Statement	Priming Statement
"Don't fight with your sister."	"It's pleasing to see you sharing the Lego with your sister."	"No football tackling at recess break."	"I'd really love to see you safely tag during recess football"
"Stop throwing your clothes on the floor."	"Thanks for putting your clothes in the laundry, it's really helpful."	"Stop throwing pencils across the room"	"Thanks for passing the pencils safely, I appreciate it."
"Stop walking mud through the house."	"I'd be thankful if you took your shoes off at the door."	"Hurry up, you haven't started your work."	"I love the way everyone has started their work, well done."

Will you be at HPS in 2026?

Enrolments & Departures

If you, or someone you know, is planning to enrol a child 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 and [school website](#).

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).

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

Class lists for 2026 will soon start to be drafted. 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 31st October 2025.

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 in which year level yet and requests for teachers will be unable to be considered.

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

Key Transition Dates

Foundation 2026 Transition Program: Five sessions, starting Friday 17th October

November: Multiple opportunities for students to spend time with their 2026 cohort

Monday 8th December: Students find out their 2026 class and teacher/s

Tuesday 9th December: All students spend time in their 2026 class with their classmates and teacher/s. Grade 6 students (Year 7 in 2026) attend a statewide transition at government secondary schools.



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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Families are invited to join us for a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits on **Friday 17th October**.
An opportunity to ask questions and meet fellow families.



FUN IS IN FULL SWING!

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

A safe way to have fun and stay active for kids of all abilities.

HEATHCOTE CRICKET CLUB BLAST SESSIONS

Session 1 – 9/11/2025 Session 2 – 16/9/2025

Session 3 – 23/11/2025 Session 4 – 30/11/2025

Session 5 – 7/12/2025 Session 6 – 8/2/2026

Session 7 – 15/2/2026 Session 8 15/2/2026



SIGN UP TODAY!

 **Play Cricket**

PROUDLY
PRESENTED BY

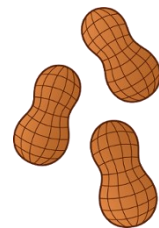
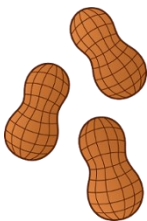


School Bank Details

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



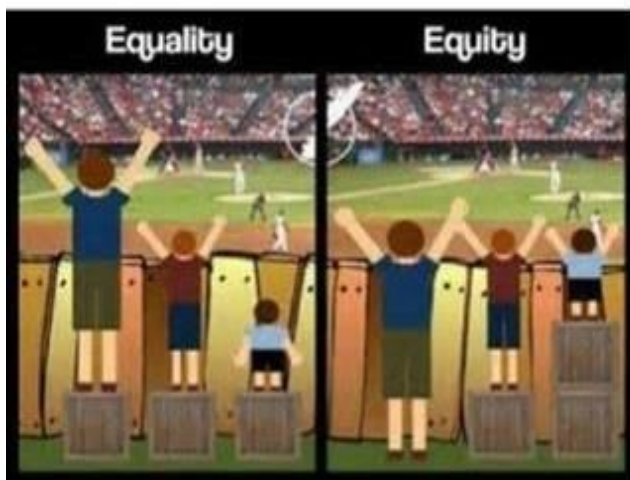
**Remember,
only WATER
in your drink
bottle at school.**



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:

