



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 31

24th 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 4	Monday 27th October	Grandparents/Special Person's Morning (9:15am—9:45am)
	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October	Swimming—Group 1 (Grade 3, 4,5 & 6 students)
	Thursday 30th October	Foundation 2026 transition session #2 and whole school transition morning (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 7	Friday 21st November	Grade 6 Tech School excursion (details to come)
Week 8	Monday 24th November	Curriculum Day — student free day
Week 9 & Week 11	Tuesday 2nd December, Monday 15th December to Thursday 18th December	Swimming—Group 2 (Foundation, Grade 1 & 2 students)
Week 9	Wednesday 3rd December	Grade 6 Celebration excursion (details to come)
Week 10	Tuesday 9th December	Whole School Transition Day
	Thursday 11th December	Grade 6 Graduation
Week 11	Friday 19th December	End of Term 4. Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm

2025 - What's Due?

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

<u>TEAMWORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Charlotte D Luna T Lillian Miles Charlotte H Layla S Tauri Noah Bu	Cierra	Georgia Jason	Chase H

Georgia - Responsibility Award for demonstrating responsible behaviours.

Cierra - Respect Award for waiting respectfully until it is your turn to speak.

Charlotte D - Teamwork Award for looking out for others.

Luna T - Teamwork Award for co-operating with and including others.

Lillian - Teamwork Award for contributing to group activities.

Charlotte H - Teamwork Award for communicating well with the teacher.

Miles - Teamwork Award for contributing to group activities.

Chase H - Learning Award for consistently staying on task.

Tauri - Teamwork Award for working positively with others.

Layla S - Teamwork Award for contributing well to group activities.

Noah B - Teamwork Award for working positively with others.

Jason - Responsibility Award for demonstrating responsible behaviours.

Awards are presented at our weekly whole school assembly.

These awards were presented on Friday 17th October.

****Assembly is held on Friday and starts at 2:30pm****

AWARDS

TEAMWORK

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING

BRONZE LEVEL

Maysa
Zayden

Liam H
Malachi

Zara
Lachlan S

SILVER LEVEL

Liam B, Reynald
Willow, Matteo
Griffin, Amelia
Ernie, George J
Lawrence, Charlie
Isla, Em-Rose
Tauri, Lincoln
Noah Bu, Malachi

William D
Noah F
Teddy
Masie
Reynald

Georgia
Hazel
Ashley
Lilah
Jett T

GOLD LEVEL

Willow

Kindness Ambassador Award

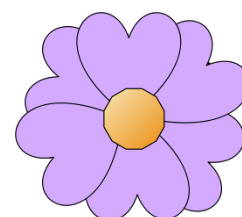
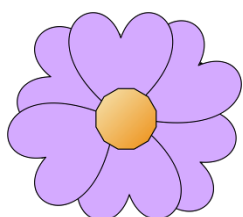
Students who consistently demonstrate acts of kindness, compassion and empathy towards others, promoting a positive and inclusive school environment.

Leo - Well done for consistently demonstrating acts of kindness.

Jackson C - For consistently being kind and helpful towards others.

Cailen - For showing high levels of consideration and emotional intelligence, recognising the needs of others and being proactive initiating multiple acts of kindness.

Thank you for making others feel included.





*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)*

Aydin

Liam B

Jackson C

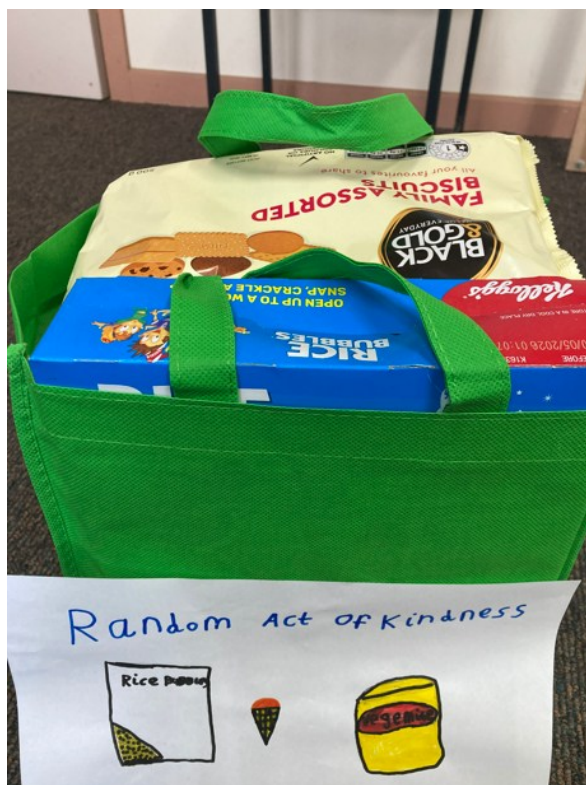
Caspar



Wellbeing



Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility



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.

Principal's Report

Each week seems to disappear more quickly than the one before it. The week that was included a continued focus on core literacy and numeracy skills, Student Support Group meetings and a trip to Melbourne Museum and IMAX for our Grade 3— 6 students.

The hours spent planning usually exceed the hours students actually spend on the excursion itself and this one was no exception. My thanks go to Kristy Balic for leading the organisation of the excursion and all staff who supported in the lead up and on the day. One of our Grade 3 students excitedly exclaimed, "There are six school days in a row when I'll be going on a bus!" He was referring to the excursion being followed by five days of swimming. Another big week is on the horizon!

Whilst Grade 3—6 students spent the day in Melbourne, our Foundation—Grade 2 students were the 'big kids' of the school. It was officially declared 'The best day ever!' by multiple students as they spent time on the senior playground and rode bikes at both breaks (we usually have juniors on bikes at one break and seniors on bikes in the other break).

With School and House Captains in Melbourne, the baton was passed to our Grade 1/2 students to lead assembly. They did a wonderful job—meeting ahead of assembly to count the values cards, practise reading the certificates and organising which person would lead each part of assembly. They spoke confidently and there was an offer to lead assembly again!

A highlight of every day is seeing students use their initiative to solve problems and lead positive change. A big thank you to Grade 1/2 students who decided to check the yard for rubbish and pick up any rogue pieces.

At this week's staff meeting, we spent time exploring the Past Present Future conversation prompt from Real Schools along with the Consistent Conversation Compass. These prompts provide an easy and effective way to navigate conversations through a restorative approach and guide the conversations we have with students. There is a parent version of the Past Present Future prompt available on the school website. [Click HERE](#) to read it.



Heathcote Primary School
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World Teachers' Day honours teachers, whose passion and hard work make a real difference to student's lives every day. In Victoria, we celebrate World Teachers' Day on **Friday 31st October**. We are very lucky to have a team of dedicated, knowledgeable, compassionate and skilled teachers at Heathcote PS.



School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Our expected behaviours matrix is displayed in all learning areas and the main office. Our values cards are 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 are placed in a tub and two winners randomly drawn out at assembly, earning themselves a 'values voucher'.



Foundation students demonstrated 'we share' and 'we wait our turn' by taking turns to use the sandpit tools along with modelling 'we are inclusive' by making sure everyone could participate.



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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Cooking-Year 5/6



Preparing for 2026

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 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 & Details

Foundation 2026 Transition Program: Five sessions, starting Friday 17th October (all dates listed on page 10).

October: Students and staff will reflect on the strengths of Heathcote PS's transition program and identify areas that could be improved. (Family feedback was sought in Term 3 through the Parent/Guardian/Caregiver survey 'positive transition' questions).

Late October and November: Multiple opportunities for students to spend time with their 2026 cohort. These sessions will align with the Foundation transition session dates and times from Thursday 30th October.

Foundation—Grade 5 students will 'step up' into their 2026 year level for the morning and spend time with their new cohort (but not necessarily their 2026 grade). These experiences will provide an opportunity for students to get to know people who might be in their 2026 grade. Grade 6 students will spend the time completing their own transition program along with organising their graduation.

November: Students will be asked to nominate five friends they would like to have in their 2026 grade. Students will be guaranteed at least one person from their list (but not necessarily all five). Families will be invited to complete this list with their child/ren.

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

Tuesday 9th December: All students will spend the day in their 2026 grade with their classmates and teacher/s. Grade 6 students (Year 7 in 2026) will 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.



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?
NOTHING!

No. Sheep in Farmer Bob's Top Field

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
No. Sheep	10	12	15	18	20	22

Baa Graph

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

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













Maths jokes and puns included as a bonus!







Water Quality Results Poster – year at a glance

Location: McIvor Creek Year: 2025 Class: 1/2

Write your results in each column then compare to water quality ratings charts in Field Manual or on website to rate the water quality in your region and draw the appropriate fish icon

Month	EC (salinity)	Turbidity	pH	Reactive Phosphorus	Notes
May					
June					
Oct					

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Very Poor
				

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.



PARENT ARTICLE

Less is More

QUICK SUMMARY

1. Ask open-ended questions
2. Talk less and listen more
3. Take advantage of relaxed moments to have important conversations

Every parent wants their child to succeed in school, but challenges are a natural part of any student's educational journey. Whether it's academic difficulties, social issues, or behavioural concerns,

knowing how to approach these problems can make a big difference. Here are some tips for parents on how to effectively support their children when school-related issues arise.

Ask the Right Questions

If your child has been in a big argument or fight with a friend, it's natural to want to jump in and fix things.

However, instead of leading with questions like, "Who started it?" or "Was it Max again?" take a breath and approach the conflict with curiosity. Ask open-ended questions like, "Why do you think the conflict happened?" or "What could you have done differently?" Instead of immediately trying to resolve the issue, ask, "How are you going to work this out?"

This encourages your child to think critically and take responsibility for their actions.

Talk Less, Listen More

As parents, we often feel the need to do all the talking when conflict arises, trying to fix the situation for our children. This can lead to jumping to conclusions and overshadowing the issue.

Instead, ask one of the open-ended questions above and then count slowly to eight seconds. This pause creates a space for your child to share their perspective. Often, they just want to talk it through, not necessarily ask you to step in and solve the problem.

The Car Ride

Have you noticed that children often open up more when they are in the car, on a walk, or while kicking a ball around?


One reason for this is the lack of direct, interrogative eye contact, which can be intimidating. These situations provide a more

relaxed environment, making it easier for your child to talk through issues. Use these opportunities to have meaningful conversations without the pressure of sitting face-to-face.

Stay curious, listen more than you talk, and take advantage of relaxed moments to have important conversations.

Conclusion

Navigating school challenges can be tough, but with the right approach, you can help your child overcome obstacles and thrive. Stay curious, listen more than you talk, and take advantage of relaxed moments to have important conversations. By fostering a supportive and proactive environment, you're setting your child up for success not just in school, but in life.



Happy Grandparents and Special Person's Day

Heathcote Primary School is hosting a morning tea
for our special caregivers.

Grandparents and/or special friends are invited to
come along for morning tea with your student.

We will be on the turf area ready to read some stories,
let you tour our classrooms and enjoy our morning tea
together.

When: Monday the 27th of October from 9:15am-
9:45am.

Where: The Turf area and grade classrooms.



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

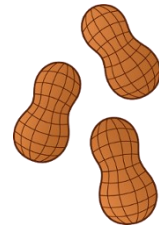
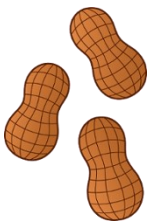


School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618



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

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



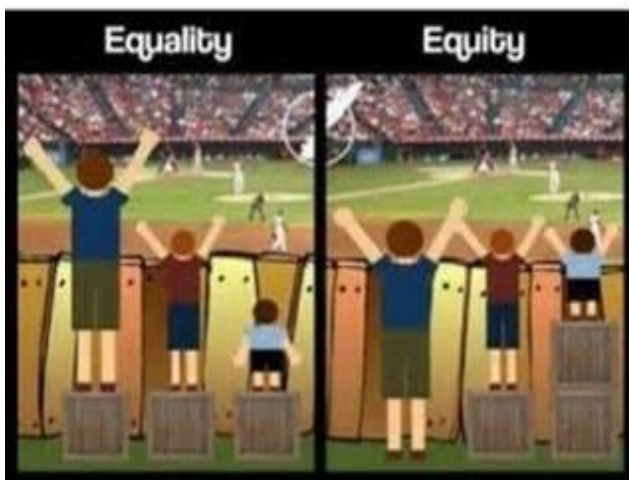
**Remember,
only WATER
in your drink
bottle at school.**



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:

