



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 34

14th November 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 7	Friday 21st November	Grade 6 Tech School excursion (details home)
Week 8	Monday 24th November	Curriculum Day — Student Free Day
	Tuesday 25th November	2026 Foundation Transition #4 (9:15am—11am) Whole School 'Step Up' morning (9:15am—11am) Grade 5/6 Bendigo Community Health session
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)
	Friday 5th December	Christmas Concert—Save the Date! (in the afternoon during school hours, details to come)
Week 10	Tuesday 9th December	Whole School Transition Day
	Thursday 11th December	Grade 6 Graduation (after school, details to come)
	Friday 12th December	F-2 excursion (details home)
Week 11	Friday 19th December	End of Term 4. Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm

2025 - What's Due?

F—2 swimming consent and swimming level forms

'Get to Know...' transition form

Grade 6 excursion permission note

Friendship Hand transition page

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

<u>TEAMWORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Heidi Ernie Emma Zelda Luna C	Blair Aurora	Leo Luna T Jayden	Freddie

Leo - Responsibility Award for being a great role model for other students.

Heidi - Teamwork Award for considering other people's feelings.

Luna T - Responsibility Award for being a great role model for other students.

Ernie - Teamwork Award for considering other people's feelings.

Blair - Respect Award for always using your manners.

Freddie - Learning Award for showing great improvement.

Aurora - Respect Award for acknowledging own effort.

Emma - Teamwork Award for co-operating with and including others.

Jayden - Responsibility Award for representing our school in a responsible manner.

Zelda -Teamwork Award for encouraging others.

Luna C—Teamwork Award for working positively with others.

Awards are presented at our weekly whole school assembly on Friday

These awards were presented at assembly on 14/11/25

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

AWARDS

TEAMWORK

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING

BRONZE LEVEL

Evelyn N

Lachlan D

SILVER LEVEL

Amelia E

Riley

Blair

Jax

Masie

Fox

Jayden

Amelia E

Noah F

Anastasia

Em-Rose

Logan J

William D

Jayden

GOLD LEVEL

Angelo

Charlotte H

Ben J

Layla S

Noah Ba



A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a birthday celebration. It features three balloons (red, blue, and yellow) floating above a small white cake with candles. To the left is a blue party hat with a pom-pom. In the center and right are wrapped gifts in orange, blue, and green paper with red bows. The background is white with scattered colorful confetti.

*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)*



JUNIOR UNIT

Zoooper Dooper Fundraiser

WHEN:
1:30-
1:45PM

**\$1.00
EACH**

**EVERYDAY
DURING
WEEK 7,8
AND 9.**

**WHERE:
TURF AREA**

**AT 2ND BREAK BEFORE THE FROG
NOISE ALL STUDENTS CAN
PURCHASE A ZOOOPER DOOPER
FROM A JUNIOR UNIT MEMBER OR
A PEER MEDIATOR.**

**MONEY RAISED GOES TO OUR JUNIOR UNIT
LITTLE LEARNERS LOVE LITERACY BOOK
RESOURCE COLLECTION**

Principal's Report

With the half way point of Term 4 behind us, our attention is both on finishing the 2025 school year strongly and preparing for a smooth transition into 2026. Please see information on page 12 about opportunities for families to support the transition program.

The school value of **learning** is demonstrated by students across curriculum areas. An enthusiastic artist recently shared his work with me. Not only did I admire the artwork itself, I also enjoyed hearing about how hard he had worked as he enthusiastically described how he combined features of multiple animals to create the finished product. I've also recently enjoyed reading student writing, including a recount about the adventures of a dog.



There was much excitement in the sandpit this week as a team of Grade 1/2 students worked tirelessly to build volcanoes. What began as a play time sculpture ended up with a class experiment and multiple volcanic eruptions on Friday afternoon! It was wonderful to see the commitment and initiative of students—they organised their own equipment, worked through setbacks and enjoyed seeing their hard work erupt. There were squeals of excitement as the volcanoes sprayed 'lava' high into the air...even onto Miss John!

Earlier in the year, Foundation students learnt about their local community and now they are 'travelling' further afield. Latest stop: Antarctica! Much fun was had completing an experiment to make snow and 'snow sand', described by a young explorer as "being the same colour as smashed potato!" and the snow as "being so, so soft!" With the lovely warm weather, classes are making the most of opportunities to learn outside.

Fingers crossed for more beautiful spring weather in the week ahead!



Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

Learning—STEM

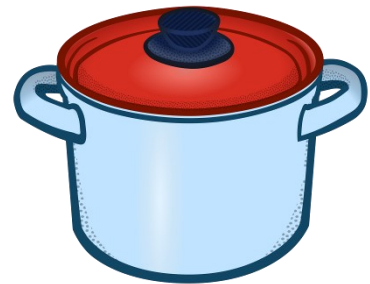


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Grade 5/6 students attended a 'Bright Future STEM Program' incursion. The program aims to raise students' awareness of the diverse career opportunities connected to Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology. Students enjoyed creating circuits, using virtual reality goggles, building 'gravitrax' and solving puzzles. Thanks to Dave for organising this opportunity for us!



Cooking - Year 3/4



In Semester 2, Grade 3/4N and Grade 5/6MG participate in a weekly cooking session as part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program. Grade 3/4HS and Grade 5/6SB participated in Semester 1. In the non-cooking semester, students attend a weekly Garden session.



Cooking - Year 5/6



School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

AIP Goal 2: To improve student engagement and wellbeing outcomes

Action: Introduce School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program

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 all values cards earned in the week are placed in a tub with two winners randomly drawn out at assembly, earning themselves a 'values voucher'.



Expected behaviour: We place rubbish in the correct bin

Each classroom has a recycling tub that is emptied into the bins with yellow lids. On Friday afternoons, monitors from each class empty the classroom tubs into the outside bins ready for 'bin night' on Monday.

The bins with red lids are for non-recyclable rubbish items.



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		



Classroom Placement Requests

Classroom placement requests closed on Friday 31st October 2025. Please note that submitting a request does not guarantee that it will be able to be met.

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

Preparing for 2026—Key Transition Dates

Foundation 2026 Transition Program:

- Five sessions, starting Friday 17th October (all dates listed on page 11).

Early October:

- Students and staff 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 2026 Foundation transition session dates and times from Thursday 30th October onwards.
- Foundation—Grade 5 students 'step up' into their 2026 year level for the morning and spend time with their new cohort (but not necessarily in their 2026 grade). These experiences provide an opportunity for students to get to know people who might be in their 2026 grade and work with different teachers. Grade 6 students spend the time completing their own transition program along with organising their graduation.

November:

- Students 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 invited to complete this list with their child/ren. **DUE: 21/11/25**
- Families invited to complete a 'Get to Know....' one page profile about their child/ren. These will be shared with 2026 classroom teachers before the statewide Transition Day on 9th December. **DUE: 21/11/25**
- Share transition information (both within HPS and between primary and secondary schools, kindergartens and HPS)

December:

- **Monday 8th December:** Students find out their 2026 class and teacher/s.
- **Tuesday 9th December:** All students spend the day in their 2026 grade with their classmates and teacher/s. Grade 6 students (Year 7 in 2026) attend a statewide transition day 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



Heathcote Primary School
Respect – Learning – Teamwork – Responsibility

Phone: (03) 5433 3090

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

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.

Transition



Heathcote Primary School
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Our Transition Program is in full swing to help prepare students for school life in 2026. As described on page 10, there are additional processes and opportunities for student and family input. The information below was sent home last week along with hard copies of the 'Get to Know' and 'Friendship Hand' documents. Information was also shared with students at assembly on Friday 14th November 2025.

Families are invited to please complete the 'Get to Know....' student profile and return to school by Friday 21st November.

The purpose of this document is to provide an opportunity for families to share key pieces of information with their child's 2026 teacher/s before the statewide transition day on Tuesday 9th December. This information will be discussed early in Term 1 at a partnership meeting between home and school (similar to the Partnership Powwow meetings in 2025).

An electronic copy will be shared via Compass. Please use whichever version suits you best. For any copies completed electronically, please email to carolyn.crowther@education.vic.gov.au

Families are invited to work with their child/ren to complete the Friendship Hand. This is an optional task that your child/ren can complete. The information will be used to help inform grade placement. **Please note that students will be placed with at least one person from their hand. It is highly unlikely that students will be placed with all five people.**

Please return completed forms by Friday 21/11/25

<p align="center">GET TO KNOW</p> <p align="center">_____ (Your child's preferred name at school)</p>		 Heathcote Primary School Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility
Describe your child in three words: _____		
What are some things your child is good at? _____ _____ _____	What is your biggest hope for your child in 2026? _____ _____ _____	
What does your child like doing? What motivates them? _____ _____		
In our family, it is important to: _____ _____ _____	I am proud of my child because: _____ _____ _____	
I would like my child's teacher to know: _____ _____ _____		
Completed by: _____ Date: _____		

 Heathcote Primary School Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility	With your family, please discuss who your friends are and who you would like to be in a class with next year. Write down the names of five of those people, one on each finger. Consider who, in a school environment, most supports your learning and wellbeing. Completed with input from _____ _____
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_____ 's
friendship group

Community



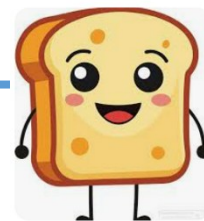
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Yard Supervision

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)



Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Friday

8:40am—8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available



From September to April, everyone needs to wear a plain coloured, broadbrimmed hat when they are outside. This is part of our SunSmart policy. If you need a hat, the office has got you covered...literally! School hats can be purchased from the office for \$10.

Basketball Clinic

Tuesdays

Weeks 6, 7, 8 & 9

All students will have the opportunity to participate in a basketball clinic as part of PE lessons. This opportunity comes to us through the sporting schools grant (and Mrs Skipper who has organised it for us all—thank you!)



Newsletter and website article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 List

This article has been developed by the Department of Education for schools to publish in their newsletter and school website.

This information has been developed to answer frequently asked questions regarding the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and Category 4 list and our school's closure on a Catastrophic fire danger day in your fire weather district.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 3 school.**



Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Northern Country fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by **Compass and post on the school's private Facebook group**.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan which includes an identified 'Shelter in Place' location if needed. We have also continued to maintain the school grounds to reduce the fuel load.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.

- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our [website](#), by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- [VicEmergency](#) app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- [VicEmergency](#) Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the department's policy?

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 List to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

Who issues fire danger forecasts?

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.

Community



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Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Goal 2: To improve student engagement and wellbeing outcomes

Action: Strengthen the school wide approach to communication with parents/carers/kin, with a focus on communicating how individual learning and wellbeing needs are being identified and supported.



Heathcote Primary School

Private group · 120 members

Heathcote Primary School has a Private Group page on Facebook. If you would like to become a member of the group, search for Heathcote Primary School and request to join. Please answer the questions.

Each request is approved individually. For the safety of our students, there are three questions to ensure that only people directly connected to HPS become members. Requests are usually approved within 72 hours. However, if we are unsure of the connection to the school, there may be a delay whilst we do some research. We may also decline the original request and seek further information. Please don't be offended—our intention is to make sure we can identify each person is directly connected to the school.



Community



Heathcote Primary School
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Heathcote Christmas Carols

Performers Wanted

All ages and abilities welcome

Would you like to be a part of the
Heathcote Christmas Carols?

5:30pm Saturday 13th December

Register your interest by 14th Nov at
heathcotechristmascarols@gmail.com



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

Please drop into the office to collect a bag.



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!

Q Play Cricket

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



Celebrate the END of an ERA

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELPING DISADVANTAGED KIDS!



29TH NOV 2025
AXEDALE HALL

Ticket Prices:
ADULT: \$28
CONCESSION: \$21
CHILD 8-13YR: \$17.50

DECORATE YOUR OWN CAKE
SWIFTIE TRIVIA
SILENT AUCTIONS
BEST DRESSED PRIZE!
SINGALONGS & PHOTO OPS!



SCAN HERE

AXEDALE HALL, 94 HIGH STREET
11 - 3:30PM
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/0GIWR](https://www.trybooking.com/0GIWR)

From the Department of Education

Protecting against mosquito-borne diseases

Warm and wet weather can result in greater numbers of mosquitoes and an increased risk of illness from mosquito bites. While the overall risk is currently low, some mosquitoes may be carrying diseases that make people sick.

The best protection against mosquito-borne illness is to avoid mosquito bites.

Families can protect against mosquito bites by:

- covering up as much as possible with long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing
- applying insect repellent that contains picaridin or DEET on exposed skin when outdoors
- limiting outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are active
- clean up and remove containers and items around the home that may hold water where mosquitoes may breed.

Families with any health concerns should see their doctor or phone NURSE-ON-CALL: 1300 606 024 (available 24 hours).

Free Japanese encephalitis vaccines

Japanese encephalitis virus is spread to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes and can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain.

A free vaccine is available to some individuals to protect Victorians at higher risk of the virus.

For more information, including vaccine eligibility, refer to the Department of Health's [Japanese encephalitis webpage](#).

Find out more

For more information on protecting against mosquito-borne diseases, families can refer to the following Better Health Channel pages:

[Mosquitoes can carry diseases](#)

[Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease](#), including a handy checklist to help reduce mosquito breeding sites at home and resources translated into other languages.

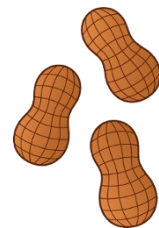
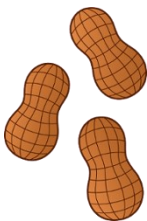
[Japanese encephalitis virus](#)

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



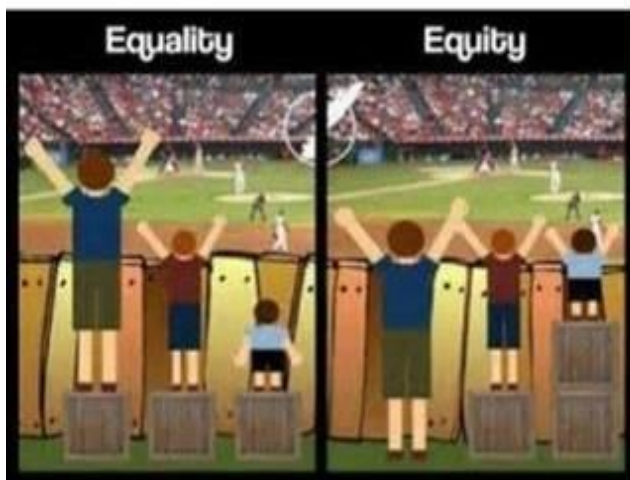
**Remember,
only WATER
in your drink
bottle at school.**



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.**



REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK

FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

