

Heathcote Primary School Newsletter

Term 4, Week 1, 2026

What's Happening in Term 4?

Week 2	Tuesday 12th October Friday 16th October	Heathcote Business Visits (Energy Breakthrough crew) Aged Care Visit (Foundation students) Transition & Step Up Session #1 (see p9 for all dates)
Week 3	Friday 23rd October	Division Cricket (Grade 5/6 cricket team, notes sent home 9/10/26)
Week 4	Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct. Wednesday 28th Oct.	Swimming lessons – Foundation, Grade 1/2JS & Grade 1/2M Parent Information Session @ 2pm (details on page 12)
Week 5	Wednesday 4th Nov. Thursday 5th Nov.	McIvor Creek – River Detectives excursion – 1/2JS & 1/2M Musical performance @ 2:30pm (Mariah's music students)
Week 7	Wednesday 18th Nov.	Energy Breakthrough – Billy Cart Competition
Week 8	Mon. 23rd – Wed. 25th November	Grade 5/6 Camp (notes sent home 9/10/26)
Week 9	Wednesday 2nd Dec.	Grade 6 End of Year excursion (notes to come)
Week 10	Tuesday 8th Dec. Thursday 10th Dec.	Statewide Transition Day Grade 6 Graduation
Week 11	Thursday 17th Dec. Friday 18th Dec.	Colour Fun Run End of Term 4 (early dismissal @ 1:30pm)

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What's Due?		
Week 3	Monday 19th Oct.	Grade 5/6 Camp Forms; permission note and medical information
		Cricket permission form

Library Visits on Thursdays

Foundation, Grade 1/2JS & Grade 1/2M

22nd October, 12th November, 3rd December

Grade 3/4HP, Grade 3/4N, Grade 5/6F, Grade 5/6MG

29th October, 19th November, 10th December

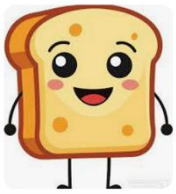
Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Thursday

8:40am — 8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk available



School Assembly

Friday

9:05am – 9:30am

Astroturf Area

In the event of inclement weather, assembly will move online to Webex

Transition & Step Up dates and details on pages 8 and 9

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.

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Celebrating Achievements

This week's SWPBS Behaviour Focus: We participate!

Participating means joining in, having a go and being part of the learning or activity. That might look like raising your hand, contributing to a group, completing your work, joining a game or trying something new.

You don't have to get everything right — the important part is being involved and giving it your best effort. Join in. Have a go. Be part of it! Know it. Show it. Live our values!

Values Awards		
Foundation	Ira	For always joining in, having a go and being a great part our class. What a wonderful role model you are, Ira!
Grade 1/2JS	Lillian	For making a positive effort to join in, participate and have a go. Great work, Lillian!
Grade 1/2M	George	For showing a wonderful willingness to participate and contribute to our class. Great job, George!
Grade 3/4HP	Occy	For always participating in everything we do. Keep up the good work, Occy!
Grade 3/4N	Jett	For always participating in activities and contributing to class discussions. Great work, Jett!
Grade 5/6F	Xander	For consistently participating in learning activities and contributing to our class. Great work, Xander!
Grade 5/6MG	Xavier	For consistently participating in activities and contributing to our class. Fantastic job, Xavier!

Kindness Awards		
Junior	Ollie F	You are our Junior Unit Kindness Ambassador for consistently showing kindness to everyone, for always considering the feelings of others, and for being a wonderful friend and a great role model proudly representing HPS.
Middle	Ace	For consistently showing kindness and care towards others. You are always willing to lend a helping hand, support your classmates, and make others feel valued and included. Well done, Ace!
Senior	Lexie	For being a kind and thoughtful person to others. Your helpful and caring nature contributes to a positive school environment. Great work, Lexie!

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Celebrating Achievements



These certificates were presented at our whole school assembly on 9/10/26



Congratulations to our committed readers who have reached milestone nights of reading:

200 Nights: Lexie V (5/6MG)

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

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

Dr Seuss

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Principal's Report

And, we're back for Term 4! I hope everyone had a happy holiday break and an opportunity to recharge the batteries ahead of what is promising to be a very full term with lots of exciting activities on the horizon.

Recent visitors complimented us on the 'vibe' and feel of the school when they visited for the first time. This is a real credit to our staff and students, a lovely acknowledgement to receive and reflection of the smooth start we have had to the term.

Our JSC organised a successful 'Pyjamas and Soft Toy Day' in the last week of Term 3. One of our Grade 5 Junior School Councillors was able to present St Vinnies representatives with the donation when they dropped off a fruit donation. We are the lucky recipients of weekly fruit donations from St Vinnies and our JSC chose to repay their kindness with all gold coins from the Pyjama Day being given to St Vinnies. Thank you to everyone who contributed - $146.60 has been donated.

Teamwork makes the dream work and we're grateful for all the support we receive. Thank you to the Davidson, Gallagher, Gardner, Kendall and Tamayo families who helped look after the chickens over the holidays and to the Reeve and Tamayo families for the work in the school grounds. We also receive donations of food and uniforms regularly during term time. Thank you to all – your kindness is appreciated.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful Term 4 and am excited to see what we achieve together.







Our first whole school excursion of the term saw everyone enjoying a performance of Rapunzel. A taste of the many excursions and incursions coming our way this term…

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Lights, Camera, Action!

In the last week of Term 3, our Grade 5/6 students took to the stage to perform a play. Each class spent Term 3 rehearsing a performance, learning lines, actions, constructing props and preparing for the big day. 5/6MG elected to perform their play for their Foundation buddies and 5/6F asked to perform for their 5/6MG peers.

A shout out to Mrs Lawson for providing this opportunity for students as part of 5/6 performing arts classes.









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Term 4 Clubs

We finish the week with Clubs. Students spend an hour exploring an area of interest in multi age groups. It's a great opportunity to learn a new skill or build on a favourite one, make new friends and work with different teachers.

Term 4 Clubs for Weeks 1 – 5 are:

Bikes, Chess, Drama, Italian, Lego, Origami and Technology.

Photos are from Chess Club.







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Preparing for 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
- 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 and teacher/s. Grade 6 students (Year 7 in 2027) attend a statewide transition at government secondary schools.

Transition & Step Up



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 13th 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

Emergency Management

We want to let you know about our school's emergency management plan. Our school plans for a range of hazards, such as bushfire, severe weather, medical emergencies and intruders, We develop specific response procedures to address these risks.

We also conduct drills regularly, ensuring that our core procedures of on-site and off-site evacuation, sheltering-in-place, and lockdown/lockouts are well-rehearsed and understood by staff and students. We have one drill per term.

Our school is considered at risk of bushfire or grassfire. We are Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register List. Our school will **close** on days of **Catastrophic** fire danger in the Northern Country fire district. Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

For more information about our bushfire risk, please visit our school website. The Country Fire Authority also has more information for schools at risk of fire: https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/schools.

If we enact our emergency management plan, we will notify you by Compass with updates on our actions. Please do not come to the school unless directed to do so, as you may put yourself and others in danger. If there is anything we need you to do, we will let you know.

In the event of an emergency that impacts telecommunications, we will endeavour to update you by Compass.

During an emergency, the school will work closely with emergency services to get specific advice to keep our community safe. Additionally, the Department of Education has dedicated emergency management staff to help monitor the situation and provide additional support to schools during emergencies.

If you have any questions about our school's emergency management plan, please contact the school office, your child's teacher or a member of the leadership team. Please be assured our top priority is the safety of our students and school community.

Click on the image to view our slideshow presentation about bushfire safety at Heathcote PS.



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Policy Reminders

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.**

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

Our school's yard duty supervision policy is available on the school website HERE.

SCAN ME

School Policies

School policies are available on the school website (scan the QR code to visit the policy page of the school website)

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Upcoming Events

children's health & wellbeing local
Free support for children and their families

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.

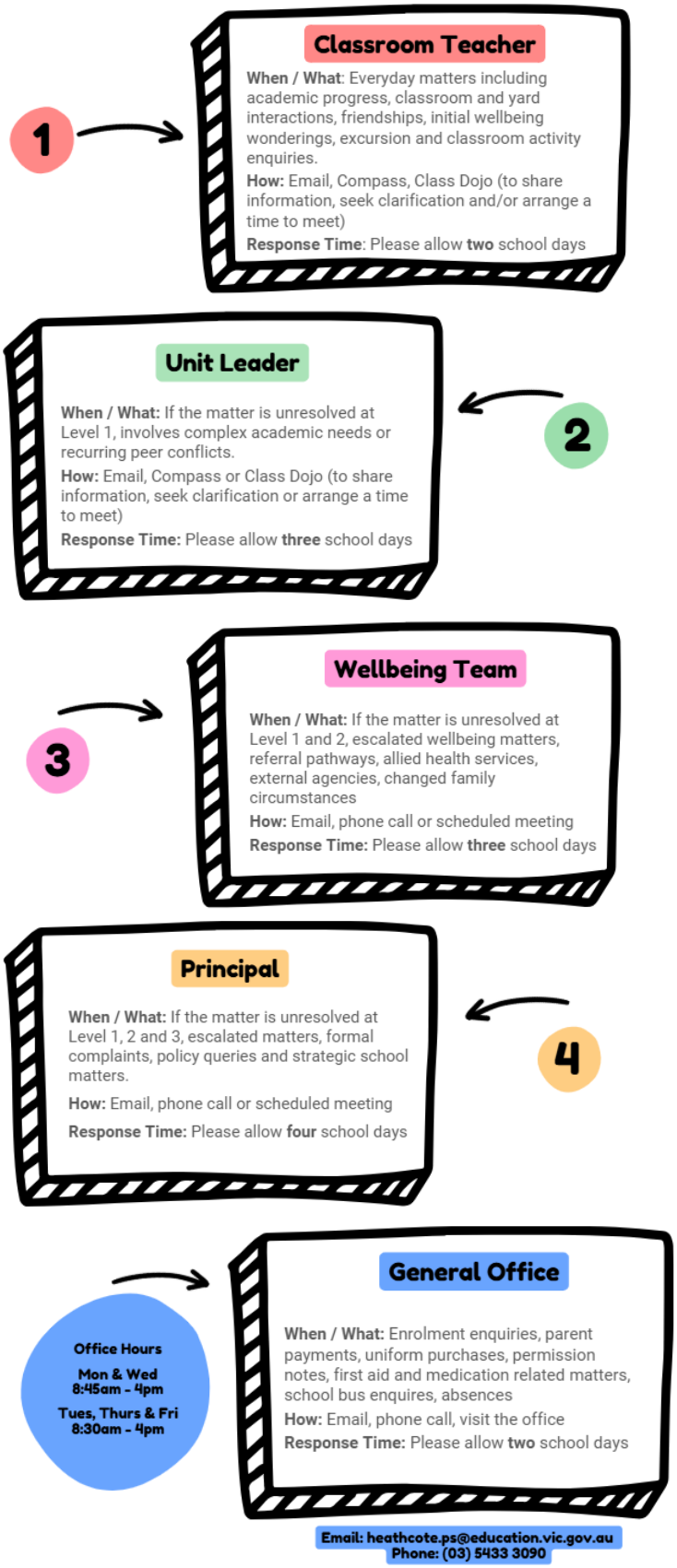
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Community Activities



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School Communications



School Admin



Banking Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618