

Heathcote Primary School Newsletter

Term 4, Week 2, 2026

What's Happening in Term 4?

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	Tuesday 3rd Nov. Wednesday 4th Nov. Thursday 5th Nov.	Public Holiday (& Heathcote Show) – no students at school 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	23rd – Wed. 25th Nov. Thursday 26th Nov. Friday 27th Nov.	Grade 5/6 Camp (notes sent home 9/10/26) Grade 3/4 Zoo excursion (notes to come) Curriculum Day – no students at school
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)

New events added to the calendar are in red

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.

P: (03) 5433 3090
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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

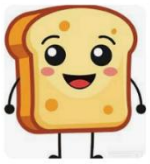
Breakfast Club

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

Preparing for 2027

Dates and details on pages 13 and 14

Kilometre Club

Run or walk, join us for a lap or more of the bike track from 8:45am onwards on Fridays

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Celebrating Achievements

This week's SWPBS Behaviour Focus: We place rubbish in the correct bin!

We're revisiting this one because keeping our school clean is everyone's job. Before you toss something away, stop for a second and choose the right bin.

Red bin — general rubbish
Green bin — food scraps
Yellow bin — recycling

A quick check makes a big difference — look at what you've got, choose the right bin and help keep our school looking great. Think before you bin it! Know it. Show it. Live our values!

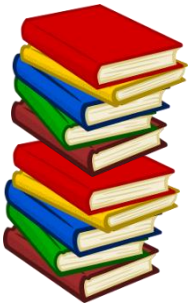
Values Awards		
Foundation	Alessia	For consistently being a fantastic role model by always placing rubbish in the correct bin and helping to keep our school clean! Well done, Alessia.
Grade 1/2JS	Georgia	For showing responsibility and care for our environment by putting rubbish in correct bins.
Grade 1/2M	Cierra	For demonstrating responsibility and care for our environment by using the correct bins and helping to keep our class bins clean and ready to use.
Grade 3/4HP	Jaimee	For always putting the right rubbish in the right bin and emptying class bins without being reminded.
Grade 3/4N	Jayden	For taking care to place rubbish in the correct bin and keeping our school clean. Well done, Jayden!
Grade 5/6F	Bridget	For demonstrating responsibility by putting rubbish in the correct bin and helping to keep our environment clean. Well done, Bridget!
Grade 5/6MG	Mia	For regularly contributing to a clean school environment by placing rubbish in the correct bin. Well done, Mia!
Kindness Awards		
Junior	Amelia H	Amelia consistently demonstrates exceptional kindness and inclusivity, always ensuring her peers are invited into her games and activities.
Middle	Yahya	For always showing kindness to others and for being a great upstander.
Senior	CJ	For consistently treating others with kindness, care and respect. Your kindness helps to create a positive environment. Well done, CJ!

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Celebrating Achievements



These certificates were presented at our whole school assembly on 16/10/26



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

50 Nights: Oliver O (1/2JS), Hazel (1/2JS), Ruby (1/2JS), Charlotte D (3/4HP)

100 Nights: Amelia B (1/2M)

150 Nights: Ollie F (F), Fatat (1/2M)

200 Nights: Iris (F), Sienna (F), Austin (F), Ewan (F), Salwa (1/2JS), Georgia 1/2JS, Luna (1/2JS)

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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More Celebrations!





Teddy, Charlie R, Ollie H,
Oscar, Alexia P, Hope,
Dahlia, Ben D, Evie



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)



A grand total of 34 laps for Friday's Kilometre Club!

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Principal's Report

Another week has flown and what a week it was! Literacy and numeracy lessons remain a key focus each day along with our weekly specialist subjects. We also value and seek out opportunities for students to connect with the local community. In one week, we have enjoyed five community excursions. Three of them took place in one day, an indication of how busy this term is going to be!

One of the excursions saw our Energy Breakthrough team visit local real estate agents on a corflute collection mission. Our thanks to Ray White Real Estate and Todd Real Estate for corflute donations which will be used to decorate a billy cart. Dave and a team of 10 students have been researching, designing, collaborating and building the billy cart this term as part of the Energy Breakthrough challenge. Race Day is just around the corner! It is the first time we have entered a team and we are very excited!

This past week we held the first of five transition mornings. These sessions are designed to support students to prepare for the year ahead, spending time with different students in their year level and teachers. It was lovely to welcome our future Foundation students along with other students new to the school in different year levels. Grade 6 students will spend time organising their graduation and completing some transition tasks/visits ahead of Year 7 during these transition sessions.

I will be disappearing for seven days of long service leave, starting on Thursday 22nd October and returning on Monday 1st November. In my absence, Christy Pryor will be acting principal.



A group of Grade 5 students visited Shine Bright Kindergarten to meet their future foundation buddies as part of preparing for 2027

Parent/Carer Survey

In Term 3, we invited all families to complete the Department of Education's annual parent/carer/guardian opinion survey. We received 55 responses which is the equivalent of over 50% of households. Thank you! The number of households participating over the past four years has almost doubled. The more voices represented, the larger the sample size and the greater validity of responses. We appreciate the time taken to share your voice as part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

2026's response rate was almost identical to the percentage of responses received in 2025 which helps make comparisons more valid when analysing the two data sets. The 2026 preliminary responses tell us:

- Families are happier with our communication processes with an increase in positive responses for **teacher communication (+18%)**
- Families better understand how their child is **assessed (+17%)** with 80% of families saying their child's report was easy to understand.
- More parents/carers feel that they have the information they need to support their child's learning at home **(+16%)**
- More parents/carers responded that their **child feels accepted** by other students **(+14%)**
- More families indicated that their child feels **safe at school (+12%)**
- Parents/carers feel that the school provides adequate **academic challenges** for their child **(+10%)**
- There are more **opportunities to participate** in school activities **(+10%)**
- Families feel that we are **teaching more effectively (+9%)**
- There is a steady increase in the percentage of positive responses for the overall area of **student wellbeing and support (+3%)**
- There is a steady increase in **school pride and confidence (+3%)**

Whilst we are proud of the growth in our data, we are always striving for improvement. Responses tell us families would like:

- More information about their child's progress with learning
- The school to celebrate student achievements in all areas more (11% of responses felt we do not celebrate enough)
- Provide more opportunities for students to develop responsibility and organisational skills
- A continued focus on safety, wellbeing and respecting diversity
- Us to build a stronger relationship with the local community
- To know more about our attendance policy

We are committed to working together to ensure continued improvement in all areas.

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Clubs – Bike Club

Bike Club was in full flight as part of our Clubs program on Friday afternoon. Students from across the school honed their skills and increased their fitness levels whilst having a whole lot of fun. After revising the safety expectations, the grand finale included a race around the bike track with legs pedalling furiously, especially up the hill!







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Community Lunch

Two of our Grade 6 leaders represented Heathcote Primary School at a community lunch last week. Heathcote Community House organises a monthly lunch and invites local organisations to attend and share updates about what they have been doing.

Our leaders received multiple compliments for their presentation and the way they represented the school. Thanks to Heathcote Community House for the invitation...and lunch!







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Community Links

After attending a previous Community Lunch in 2025, we were approached by the Heathcote Angling Club to help them complete a special project. We were invited to paint a variety of fish stencils to be displayed on the outside of the Angling Club Shed. Students with a keen interest in either Art or fishing (or both!) accepted the challenge and created the masterpieces below. Our thanks to Rudi and the Angling Club for the opportunity to participate in this project.







Buddy Reading







Every Friday after assembly, students enjoy Buddy Reading. It's an opportunity to read with people from different classes and enjoy a range of stories together. There were some impressive character voices in action!



Dental Van

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health is coming to our school soon!

Smile Squad is the Victorian Government's free school dental program. This means *all* students can receive a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian.

Sign up to Smile Squad at: https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic **OR** use the QR code below:

Paper copies of the consent form are also available. Please contact the school office if you would like one. The electronic consent form can be translated into more than 100 languages, and the paper form is currently available in 13 languages.

Smile Squad oral health packs

All children deserve a healthy smile, and the Smile Squad free school dental program is working hard to help make this happen.

Your child(ren) will soon receive a free oral health pack to bring home. The pack contains a toothbrush, full-sized toothpaste, and an oral health brochure. Please take a moment to read the brochure—it is full of useful tips to help your family eat well, drink well, and clean well for life.

Standard strength toothpaste

Smile Squad provides standard-strength fluoride toothpaste, which is generally recommended for ages six and over unless advised otherwise by a dental or trained health professional.

If your child is under six, please speak with a dental or trained health professional to determine whether this toothpaste is suitable. Alternatively, you may choose to put the toothpaste aside until they turn six or give it to another family member.

Do I need to attend my child's appointment?

No, you do not need to attend your child's appointment. You are welcome to attend if you wish, and you can choose to take your child to a community dental clinic if that suits your family better.

SMILE SQUAD

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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). Please see page X for a full list of dates.
- 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).

Consultation on our Complaints Policy is underway. Please contact the school office with any feedback on the policy.

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Community Flyers

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.

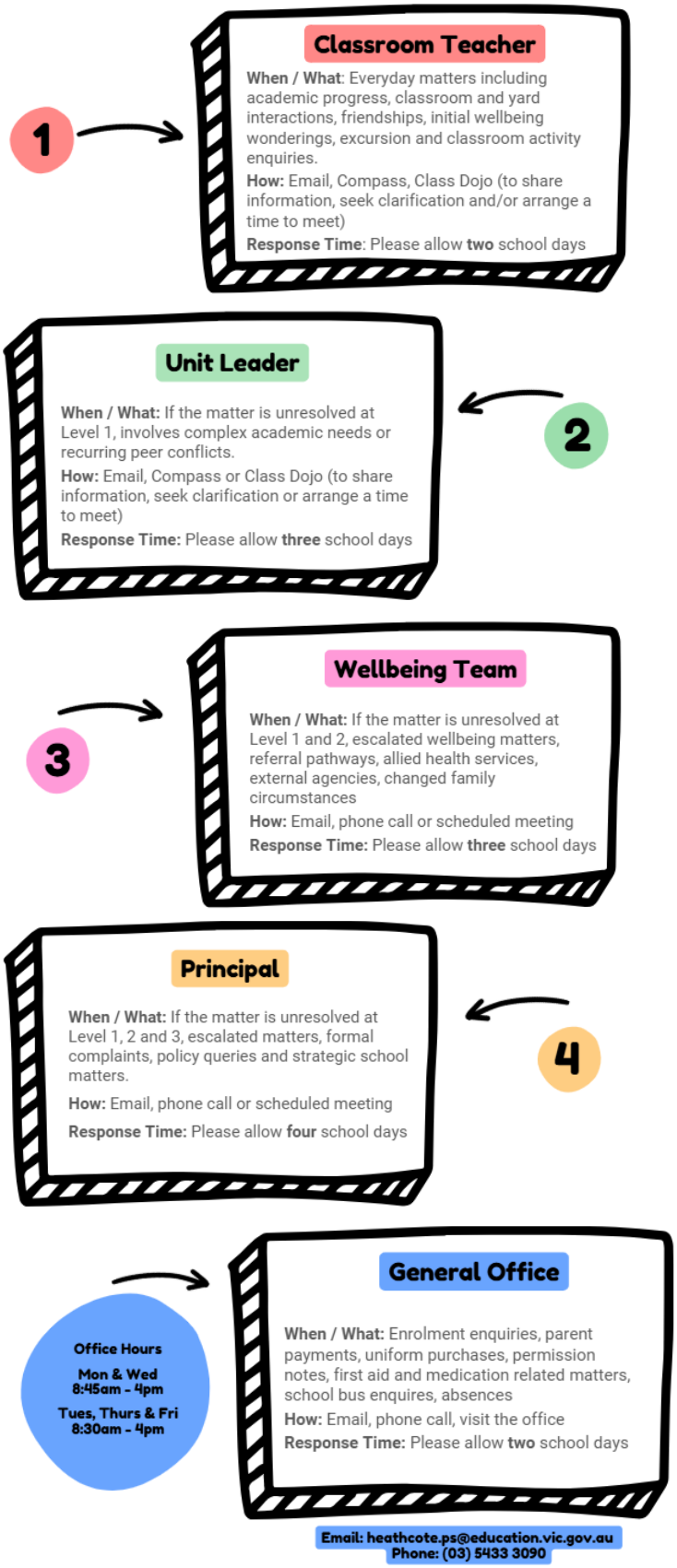






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School Communications



Admin



Banking Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001 **ACCOUNT:** 71 938 5618