

Heathcote Primary School Newsletter

Term 4, Week 3, 2026

What's Happening in Term 4?

Week 4	Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct.	Swimming lessons – Foundation, Grade 1/2JS & Grade 1/2M
	Wednesday 28th Oct.	Parent Information Session @ 2pm (details on page 15)
	Friday 30th Oct.	Grandparents & Special Persons morning (see Dojo for details)
Week 5	Tuesday 3rd Nov.	Public Holiday (& Heathcote Show) – no students at school
	Wednesday 4th Nov.	McIvor Creek – River Detectives excursion – 1/2JS & 1/2M
	Thursday 5th Nov.	Musical performance @ 2:30pm (Mariah's music students)
Week 6	Tuesday 10th Nov.	Hot Lunch Day (details to come home Friday 30/10/26)
	Thursday 12th Nov.	BSE Scavenger Hunt 8am – 12:30pm (notes sent home)
Week 7	Wednesday 18th Nov.	Energy Breakthrough – Billy Cart Competition
Week 8	23rd – Wed. 25th Nov.	Grade 5/6 Camp (notes sent home 9/10/26)
	Thursday 26th Nov.	Grade 3/4 Zoo excursion (notes to come)
	Friday 27th Nov.	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.	Statewide Transition Day
	Thursday 10th Dec.	Grade 6 Graduation
Week 11	Thursday 17th Dec.	Colour Fun Run & Local Legends Christmas Draw
	Friday 18th Dec.	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
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

What's Due?

Week 4	Friday 30th Oct.	Classroom placement requests (optional, refer to page 8)
Week 5	Friday 6th Nov.	Hot Lunch order form (being sent home on Friday 30/10/26)
	Friday 6th Nov.	BSE Scavenger Hunt permission forms

Library Visits on Thursdays

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

12th November, 3rd December

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

29th October, 19th November, 10th December

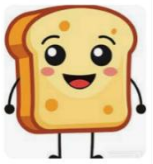
Breakfast Club

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

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

Celebrating Achievements

This week's SWPBS Behaviour Focus: We pack up!

We're building on this focus by thinking about what a really good pack-up looks like. Packing up isn't just putting away our own things — it's helping leave the whole space ready for the next lesson, class or group. That means clearing desks, packing bags, returning equipment, pushing in chairs, putting rubbish in the correct bin and checking the area around us before we move on.

A great pack-up is quick, calm and everyone helps. Pack it. Check it. Leave it ready!

Know it. Show it. Live our values!

Values Awards		
Foundation	Lusianna	For consistently packing up your own learning space, our classroom as well as packing up our equipment. Well done, Lusianna!
Grade 1/2JS	Miles	For your outstanding effort and teamwork in keeping our learning spaces neat and tidy.
Grade 1/2M	Jaylah	For demonstrating initiative by packing up responsibly and offering a helping hand to others. Great job, Jaylah!
Grade 3/4HP	Charlotte	Charlotte always packs up things at the end of her breaks. Thank you for keeping the school yard clean.
Grade 3/4N	Ace	For showing great responsibility and teamwork when packing up and keeping our learning space tidy. Well done, Ace!
Grade 5/6F	Jess	For consistently packing up your own learning space, along with helping others with theirs. Great work, Jess!
Grade 5/6MG	Neleyah	For consistently packing up and contributing to a safe and clean school environment. Great work, Neleyah!

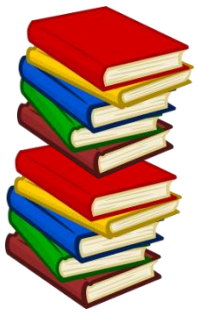
Kindness Awards		
Junior	Jack H	You are our Junior Unit Kindness Ambassador for consistently showing kindness to everyone, for always considering the feelings of others, and for being a wonderful friend and a great role model proudly representing HPS. Great job, Jack!
Middle	Lachlan	For always supporting others, offering encouragement and showing kindness to those around you. Your positive attitude helps make our classroom a welcoming and supportive place for everyone!
Senior	Lexie	For always being kind, caring and inclusive to others. Your friendly nature makes our school a safe and welcoming place for all. Well done, Lexie!

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

Celebrating Achievements



These certificates were presented at our whole school assembly on 23/10/26



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

150 Nights: Miles (1/2JS)

200 Nights: Willow (F)

250 Nights: Saskia (F), Austin (F), Jaxon (F), Heidi (1/2JS), Xavier (1/2JS), Emma (1/2M)

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.
Dr Seuss

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

More Celebrations!





Liam B



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)



We added more laps to our Kilometre Club total!

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

Technology & Wellbeing

One of the biggest concerns families have about their children is online safety. The Inform and Empower website has some good resources to guide us in supporting our children to know the risks and keep themselves safe. Below are their 4 tips that evidence suggests will best keep your children safe (Tips):

#1 Share their tech interest

Discuss and ask questions about their online activities, just as you would embrace their interest in sport, music or any other extracurricular activity.

"*What level did you get up to?*"

"*You seem to be loving <insert game> at the moment, why is it such an awesome game?*"

"*What do you think you have to improve to do better at <insert game>?*"

"*I could hear you speaking really excitedly while playing...do some of the other players not always speak respectfully? What do you do when this happens?*"

#2 Don't overreact

When your children come to you with an issue or problem, even one that they have caused, '**get curious not furious**' (Lisa Smith from *www.thepeacefulparent.com* has lots of other great ideas). If children think you'll overreact, this will be a big barrier to them sharing anything with you.

#3 Validate their feelings

Kids need to feel heard (well, we all do actually!) so comments like "don't be such a drama queen" or "it's not a big deal, don't be ridiculous" will discourage them from talking to you as they feel like you have 'dismissed' their feelings. You need to give your children a safe space to explore their feelings. Say things like "Tell me more about what happened" & "How did that make you feel?"

#4 Help kids access other support

For lots of reasons children won't always want to talk to parents. Let them know it's okay to talk with other trusted adults, for example teachers, aunts/uncles or *Kids Helpline* (*www.kidshelpline.com.au*)

Effective communication also means having the 'tricky' conversations with your children, including cyberbullying, pornography, sending nudes & sexting and unwanted contact (grooming). As challenging as these conversations can feel, you as a parent NEED to open up the dialogue in order to best keep your children safe. To get some expert help with tackling these challenging conversations and more, visit:

The hard-to-have conversations: Talking with your child about tricky personal subjects.

As always, if you would like more information or would like help to find further support, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.
Concetta.sergi2@education.vic.gov.au or 5433 3090.

Dental Van is Coming!

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health is coming to our school soon – October/November!

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

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

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.



P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

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).

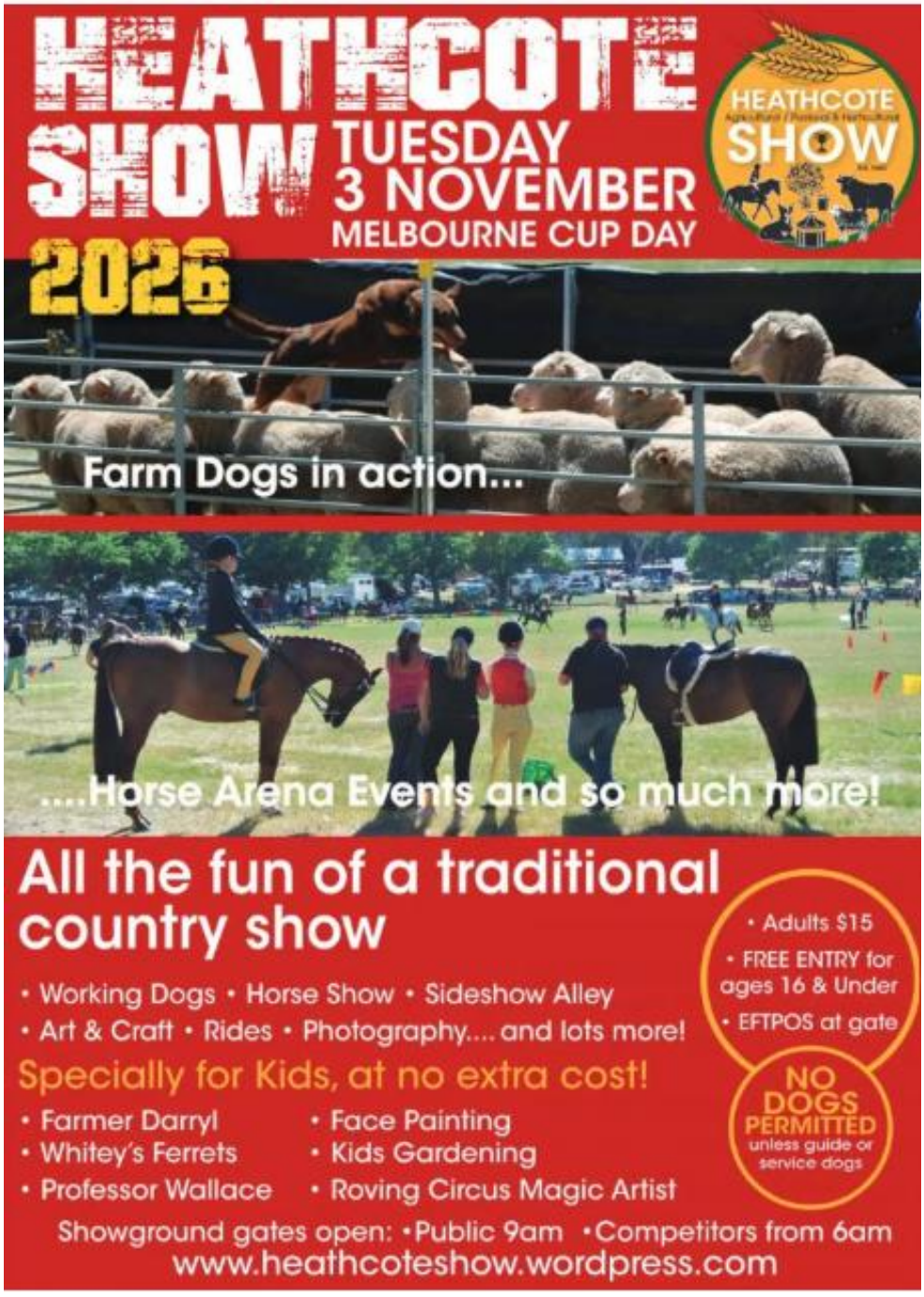
Consultation on our Complaints Policy is underway. Please contact the school office with any feedback on the policy.

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

Community Connections

Heathcote PS will be at the Heathcote Show!

We will have a stall full of games and activities. There will also be lolly bags for sale. If anyone would like to help supervise the stall, please contact the school office by Friday 30th October 2026.



P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

Community Connections

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.



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 5th December

Register your interest by 6th Nov at heathcotechristmascarols@gmail.com





P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

Community Connections

HEALTHY HEATHCOTE

Heathcote Primary is partnering with Heathcote Health for a new project called Healthy Heathcote. We're aiming to help local families pack healthy, budget-friendly lunchboxes with less stress.

We want this to fit what your family actually needs, so please take 2 minutes to complete our short anonymous survey:

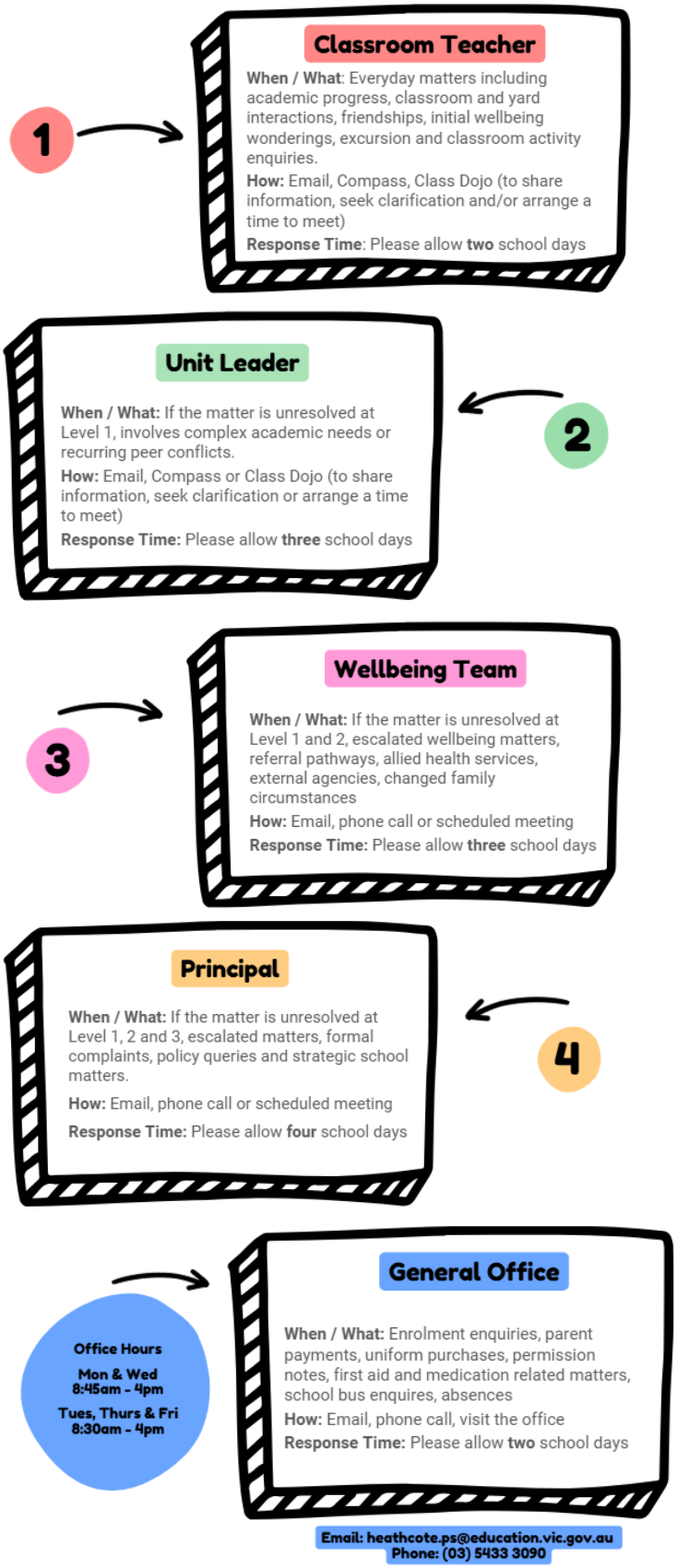
SCAN HERE



Questions? Contact Heathcote Health:
eobree@heathcotehealth.org

P: (03) 5433 3090
A: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote VIC 3523
A: PO Box 631, Heathcote VIC 3523

School Communications



Admin



Banking Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

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