

Heathcote Primary School Newsletter

Term 4, Week 4, 2026

What's Happening in Term 4?

Week 5	Monday 2nd Nov.	Dental van arrives onsite
	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 (order forms sent home 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	Monday 30th Nov.	Grade 6 STEM excursion (notes to come)
	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
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What's Due?

Week 5	Friday 6th Nov.	Hot Lunch order form by 10:30am (please note that no change can be given, no late orders can be accepted)
	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

19th November, 10th December

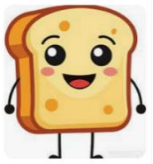
Breakfast Club

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 8 and 9

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 follow instructions!

When an adult gives us an instruction, we:

- Stop and listen
- Think about what to do
- Get started

Following instructions helps everyone stay safe, saves time and helps our day run smoothly — in class, in the yard and around the school.

Stop. Listen. Get started!

Know it. Show it. Live our values!

Values Awards		
Foundation	Saskia	For consistently following instructions, listening carefully and being a great participant throughout your entire swimming week. Well done, Saskia!
Grade 1/2JS	Luna	Showing incredible respect and responsibility by listening to directions and leading your peers by example.
Grade 1/2M	Logan	For demonstrating great listening skills and a positive attitude throughout a fantastic week of swimming! Awesome work, Logan!
Grade 3/4HP	Pippa	For listening respectfully and following instructions the first time they are given. Great work, Pippa!
Grade 3/4N	Nathan	For consistently making positive choices, following instructions and doing the right thing. You are a wonderful role model. Keep up the amazing work!
Grade 5/6F	Fox	For listening respectfully and following instructions the first time they are given. Great work, Fox!
Grade 5/6MG	Zelda	For consistently following instructions responsibly and for being a great role model for your peers. Well done, Zelda!
Kindness Awards		
Junior	Alexia	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	Alex	For always being kind to everyone and being a great role model to others. You are always willing to work with anyone to the best of your capabilities.
Senior	Teddy	For showing kindness to your peers and working cooperatively with others. Your teamwork helps everyone feel included. Well done, Teddy.

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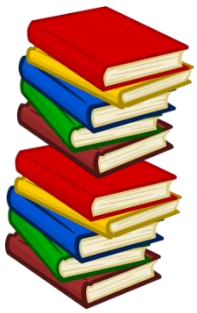
Celebrating Achievements



These certificates were presented at our whole school assembly on 30/10/26



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

100 Nights: Lachlan (3/4N)

150 Nights: Lachlan (3/4N)

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!





Mia

Caspar



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!

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Wellbeing

This week I thought I would revisit the services provided by **Kids Helpline**.

Kids Helpline offers free 24/7 phone support where young people can talk to a qualified counsellor about any issue, big or small. You can call **1800 55 1800** to access this service. It also offers **real-time online chats** with a counsellor, available 24/7 for those who prefer typing over speaking.

Qualified counsellors at Kids Helpline are available anytime and for any reason. Trained counsellors can help with concerns about a range of issues such as relationships with family and friends, school, bullying, drug or alcohol use, dealing with abuse, grief or homelessness, or if someone is scared, sad or angry.

There are free interactive **Wellbeing Apps**, designed to help young people track their moods, develop emotional literacy, and manage anxiety and a **Resource Library:** with age-appropriate articles and tips covering mental health, relationships, family problems, school, and e-safety.

Don't forget to check our **Support Services Hub** if you are looking for more wellbeing resources.

If you would like more information or have any questions please feel free to give me a call or email, Concetta.Sergi2@education.vic.gov.au.

kids helpline
anytime.anyreason.

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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
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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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Community Connections









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

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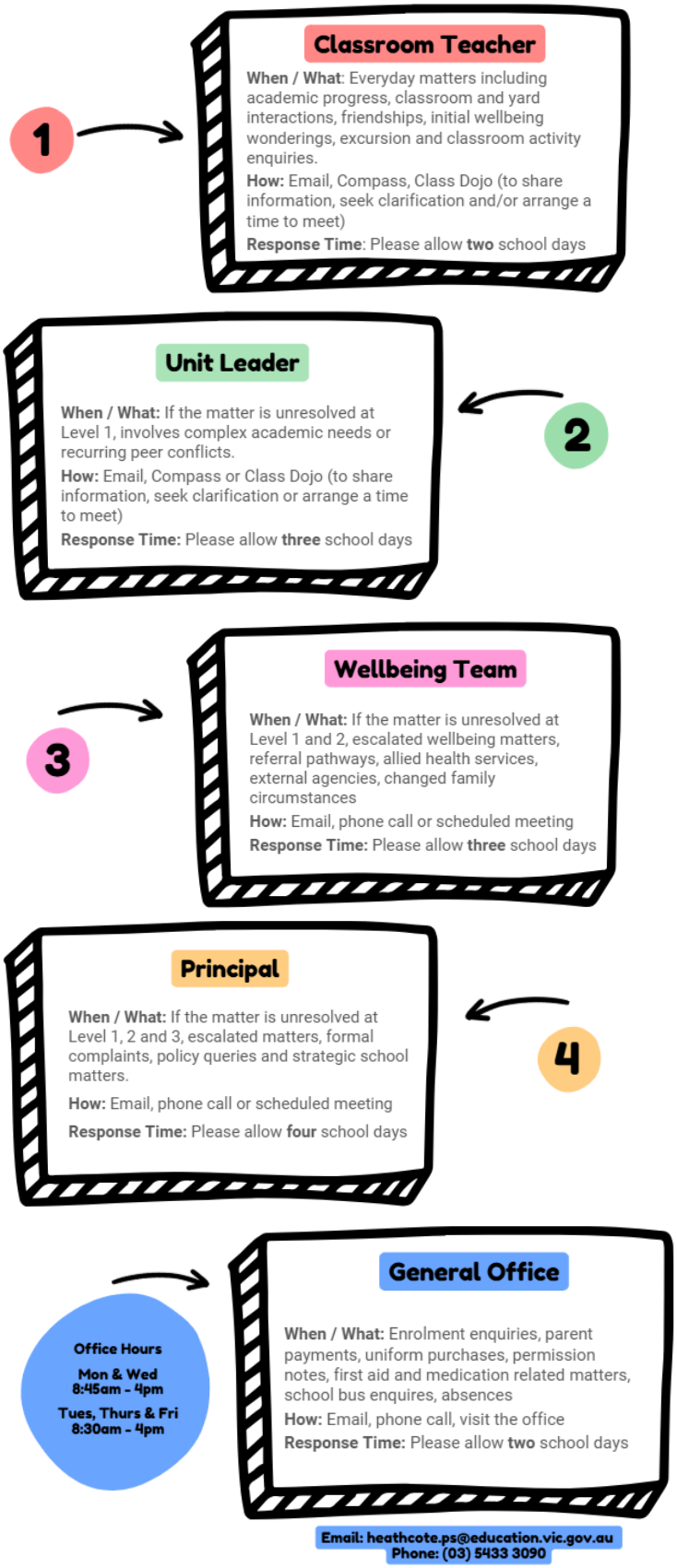
School Communications



Admin



Banking Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

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