

Heathcote Primary School Newsletter

Term 4, Week 5, 2026

What's Happening in Term 4?

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)
	Friday 13th November	Zooper Doopers for sale (further details on page 2)
Week 7	Wednesday 18th Nov.	Energy Breakthrough – Billy Cart Competition
Week 8	23rd – 25th Nov.	Grade 5/6 Camp (notes sent home 9/10/26)
	Thursday 26th Nov.	Grade 3/4 Zoo excursion (notes sent home 6/11/26)
	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.	Foundation Graduation (during school, information sent out)
		Grade 6 Graduation (after school)
	Friday 11th Dec.	Junior Unit End of Term incursion – Mr Marvellous Circus Workshop (information to come)
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?

Grade 3/4: zoo excursion permission note (sent home 6/11/26)

Library Visits on Thursdays

Foundation – Grade 2:
12th November, 3rd December

Grades 3 – 6:
19th November, 10th December

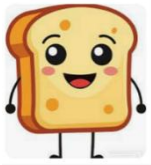
School Assembly on Fridays

9:05am – 9:30am,

Astroturf Area

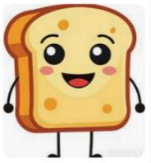
In the event of inclement weather, assembly will move online to Webex

Breakfast Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays



8:40am — 8:55am, HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk available



Cricket Coaching Tuesdays in Weeks 6, 7, 8 & 9

Courtesy of a Sporting Schools grant submitted by Mrs Skipper, we have a cricket coach coming to our PE lessons for four weeks!

Coach Lachie will start on Tuesday with every class participating. Lachie has been coaching for almost four years, including through SEDA college and now with Kelly Sports.



Ahead of his first visit, we asked Lachie what he enjoys most about coaching:
"I most enjoy seeing how much fun everyone is having and the smiles on their faces as they run around and complete the sessions I am running."

Welcome to Heathcote PS, Lachie!



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Celebrating Achievements

This week's SWPBS Behaviour Focus: We keep our hands and feet to ourselves

We keep our hands and feet to ourselves! We're building on this focus by thinking about what safe hands, safe feet and safe space look like across our school.

That might mean hands in our pockets, hands by our sides, feet on the ground, giving someone a little more room, or walking away if we need space. We can still play, laugh and have fun while making sure everyone feels comfortable and safe.

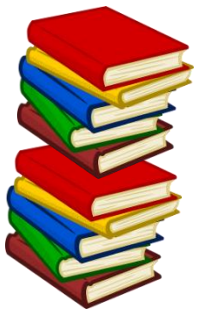
Give space. Keep it safe. Make a good choice! Know it. Show it. Live our values!

Values Awards		
Foundation	Sienna	For consistently keeping your hands and feet to yourself, showing respect and still having fun but making sure everyone feels comfortable and safe. Well done, Sienna!
Grade 1/2JS	Heidi	For showing respect for others by keeping your hands and feet to yourself. Keep up the great work, Heidi!
Grade 1/2M	Lina	For showing positive progress in respecting personal space and keeping her hands and feet to herself. Well done, Lina!
Grade 3/4HP	Malina	For always showing respect to others by keeping your hands and feet to yourself.
Grade 3/4N	Ashley	For always showing respect to others by keeping your hands and feet to yourself.
Grade 5/6F	Savannah	For always showing respect to others by keeping your hands and feet to yourself.
Grade 5/6MG	Lilah	For consistently being respectful of your peer's personal space and keeping your hands and feet to yourself. Great work, Lilah!
Kindness Awards		
Junior	Xavier	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	Timoci	For being a friendly member of the class. Timoci is always looking out for others and checking in on his friends. Keep up the great work, Timoci!
Senior	Liam B	For being kind, caring and inclusive of your peers. Your positive attitude and respect of others contributes to a happy class environment. Great work, Liam!

Celebrating Achievements



These certificates were presented at our whole school assembly on 6/1126



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

250 Nights: Jess (5/6F)

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 43 laps this week at Friday's Kilometre Club!

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Principal's Report

It's lovely to be back at school after a short time away on long service leave. Thank you to Christy for leading our school as acting principal in my absence and to the entire HPS team who kept everything running smoothly.

The school has been a hive of activity this past week with everything from reflecting on learning growth to celebrating the courage of students stepping outside their comfort zone when trying something new.

Congratulations to our **amazing artists** who shared their masterpieces with the community at the Heathcote Show. After lots of effort at school carefully honing their skills, students each produced a piece of artwork and had the opportunity to submit their work for display at the show. The Arts and Crafts pavilion was buzzing with excited students eagerly finding their piece of artwork on display.



Celebrating our artists
(photos on page 9)

Mariah's musicians took to the stage on Thursday afternoon for their annual performance. I always admire the commitment and persistence shown by students to learn new songs and the courage shown as they perform in front of the whole school. For some, it was their first performance so an extra special milestone. There were individual performances and Heathcote in Harmony also performed.



Celebrating our musicians and choir
(photos on page 10)

For the first time ever, Heathcote PS has a team entered in the **pushcart** section of the Energy Breakthrough. Under Dave's careful guidance and support, the team has built their cart from scratch. I was lucky enough to join them for part of the build last week and to be there for the first test drive. Very exciting! The team ought to be incredibly proud of their problem solving, collaboration, persistence, creativity and attention to detail. Photos are on page 11.

We celebrated **World Teachers' Day** on Friday. The day provides time to shine a light on our teachers. We're incredibly lucky to have a team of dedicated, caring, hardworking, knowledgeable and resilient teachers. Thank you for joining the secret mission to surprise teachers by dressing as them and for taking time out of your day to share a kind word or message. I know it was much appreciated.



Celebrating World Teachers' Day
(photos on page 7)

Looking forward to seeing what we achieve together in the week ahead!

Celebrating World Teachers' Day







We celebrated World Teachers' Day - a day to shine a light on the wonderful things our teachers do every day to support our students and school community.

Students shared the things they appreciate the most, including helping to learn new things, being there each day, helping to solve problems, their kindness and care and making learning fun.

We also pulled off our secret mission and surprised teachers by dressing as them. There were many 'mini me' outfits - thank you for joining in with our undercover secret mission!

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Community Connections







For the first time, Heathcote PS went to the **Heathcote Show!** We took our giant games, some show bags and prizes. Thank you to our School Council president Ally for making it all possible and to everyone who dropped in to say hello, play a game or buy a show bag. We had such a great day, we'll be back next year!





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Celebrating our Artists



A giant 'well done!' to all artists who shared their work with the community at the Heathcote Show and a 'thank you' to Mrs Skipper for leading our visual art program.

A sample of artwork that was on display…









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Celebrating our Musicians





Our musicians performed at our annual musical performance. Congratulations to everyone who took to the stage – we're proud of your musical talents and also your courage and confidence performing for the school. Thank you to Mariah for guiding, teaching and encouraging our musicians and facilitating weekly choir sessions.





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Billy Cart Project

With Dave's help, the pushcart team have designed and built their pushcart from scratch. They needed to follow strict criteria, including being able to 'flat pack' it no higher than 10cm and they will have to put it together on competition day. Extra points are given for using recycled materials. Would you believe there is part of a table in there somewhere?!

Their next task is to install the steering wheel, add brakes and attach their decorations.

Energy Breakthrough Challenge, here we come!







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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.

Before and after school care is available through Trinity Academy. A bus from Heathcote PS drops after school care passengers at Trinity and vice versa for before school care. 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) or click HERE.

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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

HEATHCOTE PANTHERS SUMMER SEASON

TERM 4 2026 & TERM 1 2027

NOW SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR OUR JUNIOR BASKETBALL SUMMER SEASON

UNDER 12 BOYS	UNDER 14 BOYS	UNDER 16 BOYS
BORN 2016-2017	BORN 2014-2015	BORN 2012-2013

TRAINING SCHEDULE:

UNDER 10 & UNDER 12	MONDAY 4PM - 5PM
UNDER 14	MONDAY 5PM - 6PM
UNDER 16	MONDAY 5:30PM - 6:30PM

TRAINING TIMES MAY VARY DEPENDING ON PARTICIPANT NUMBERS**

COMPETITION GAMES ARE PLAYED AT RED ENERGY ARENA, BENDIGO.

DEVELOP SKILLS, MAKE FRIENDS & BE PART OF A GREAT CLUB COMMUNITY!

FUN, RESPECT, TEAMWORK & A LOVE FOR THE GAME!

INTERESTED? PLEASE CONTACT:
ALAN BUTLER 0418 589 020
KRISTYN CAMPBELL 0418 852 339

BARRACK RESERVE STADIUM, HEATHCOTE.

FOLLOW US! facebook.com/HeathcotePanthersBasketball

The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.
HEATHCOTE NIGHT BRANCH

ONLINE CHRISTMAS POP-UP STALL



Gingerbread cookies x 4 $8

Rum balls x 12 Or gluten free rum balls x 6 $8

Shortbread $8

Place your orders by Saturday 28th November 2026

heathcotenightcwa@gmail.com

Pick up at the Lions Club Bush Market, Barrack Reserve
Saturday 5th December 2026
or by arrangement





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



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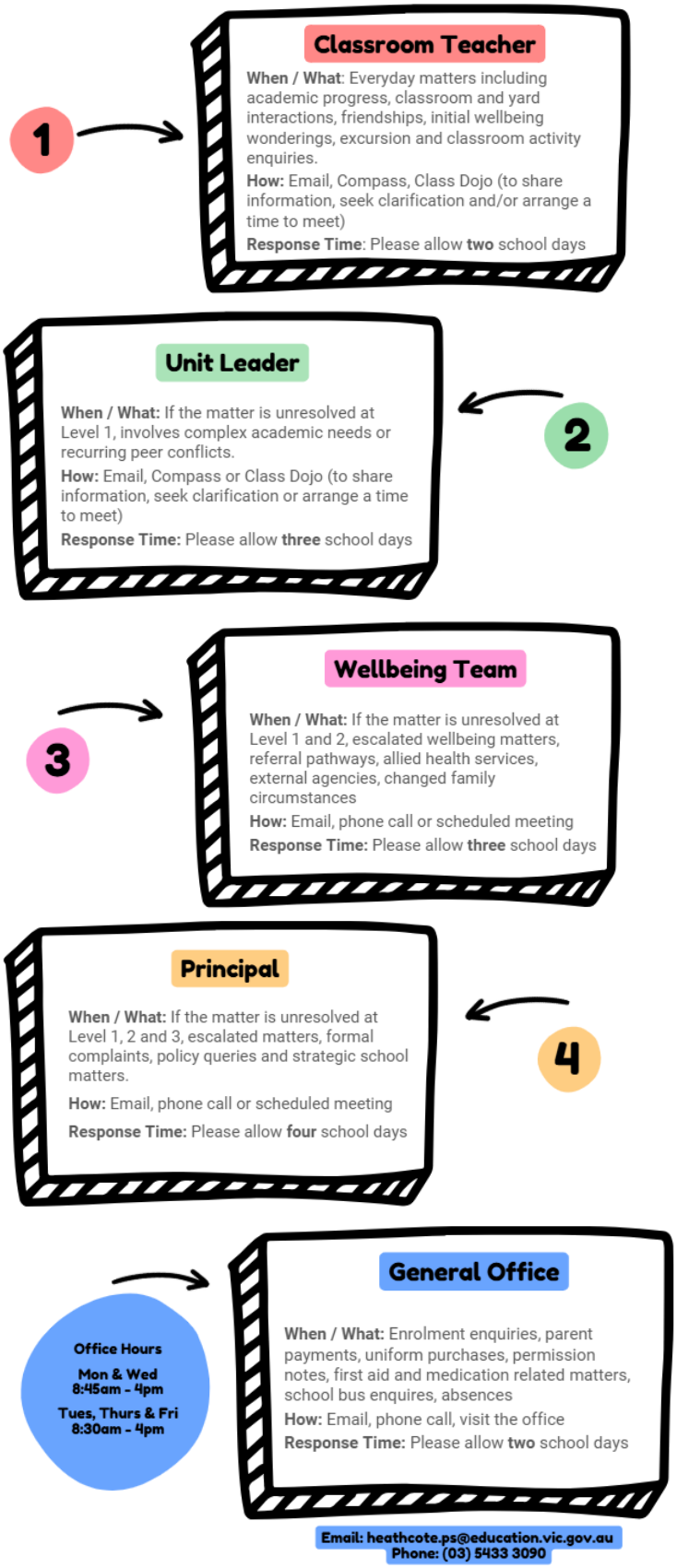
School Communications



Admin



Banking Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

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