





TERM 4 EDITION 5

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 3rd December 2025



IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs 4th Dec	 Hastings Primary School Christmas Afternoon 2:30pm onwards 
8th Dec	3-6 Swimming Carnival
9th Dec	Statewide Transition
11th Dec	Year 5/6 Big Day Out Gravity Zone
11th Dec	IMax Excursion Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2
12th Dec	Splash 'N' Dash 1:30PM
15th Dec	2025 Final Assembly 9am
16th Dec	Year 6 Graduation
17th Dec	Pupil Free Day
19th Dec	Last Day of School 2025 1:30pm Finish

2026 DATES

28th Jan	First Day Year 1 - 6 Prep Family Interviews
29th Jan	First Day Year Prep

Principal's Message



It's incredible to think we are nearly at the end of the 2025 school year. Where has the time gone?

What an exceptional year of learning and connecting we have all experienced. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff for the amazing partnership we continue to forge together.

THANK YOU for all your positive and generous contributions to H.P.S being "the best it can be."

End of year arrangements

The School Council wish to inform all families that on the final two days of the school year, Thursday the 18th and Friday 19th of December, no formal lessons will be held and students attending will be assisting with cleaning and organisational tasks.

As parents will be aware, the dismissal time for the end of Term 1, 2 and 3 is 2.30pm.

Department of Education & Training regulations allow dismissal time to be 1.30pm on the last day of the school year (Friday 19th December) if four hours of school time have been conducted. As such school will operate on the last day as follows:

- " 9.00-11.00am - Class time*
- " 11.00-11.30am - Recess*
- " 11.30-1.30pm - Class time*



Tu Toa, Kia Kaha
Stand Strong, Have Strength
Mrs. Simone McDonald Principal



Structure

2026 STAFF

Minnows

Foundation

Mrs. Jesse Waters

Sea Eagles

Year 1 & 2

Miss Melissa Thorne

Mr. Shane Barden

King Fishers & Angling

Year 3 - 6

Ms. Vikki Cremen

Mr. Anthony Hewitt

Mrs. Sue Wilson

Principal

Mrs. Simone McDonald

Assistant Principal

Mrs. Rebecca Legge

Assistant Principal

Miss. Michelle Aldridge

Business Manager

Ms. Jane Grace

Admin staff

Mrs. Suzanne Wilkins

Education Support

Mrs. Sarah-Anne Plymin

Miss. Georgia Milburn

Mrs. Merrill Shanahun

Ms. Stacey Deen

Mrs. Karen Tilley

Mrs. Lynne Davis

Visual & Media Arts

Auslan

Performing Arts

Mr. Ryan Minehan

PE incl. Bike Ed

Mrs. Kath Sendeckyj

STEM

Ms. Kate Hermiston

Farewell and best wishes



As we farewell several colleagues who have made a meaningful impact on our school community, we extend our sincere gratitude for their dedication and commitment to our students.

This year, we acknowledge Mrs. Julie Dare, who has taught in 1/2B [Wednesday's] with care and professionalism. Her calm presence and thoughtful practice have supported her students and contributed positively to our school.

We also thank Mrs. Sarah Hicks, who joined us this semester to teach Performing Arts. Sarah's creativity and enthusiasm have brought new energy to the program and have been greatly appreciated by students and staff.

Their contributions have helped shape the positive and supportive environment we value at Hastings Primary School. While you will be missed, we wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Thank you for all you have given to our school. You will always be part of the Hastings Primary School family.

Final day Crossing Supervision

As the finish time of the final school day is **1.30 pm** the School Crossing will NOT be manned by the Shire Council crossing supervisors. This is because the speed limits on school crossings are ONLY 2.30 – 4.00 pm and crossing supervisors are only permitted to assist students at these times.

The 1.30pm dismissal time causes us a road safety issue as the Mornington Peninsula Shire does not permit supervisors to attend the crossings at this time. Therefore, we will have Teaching Staff supervising the crossing on Hodgins Rd and at the Kings Creek crossing.



In particular, the students using the crossing at Kings Creek will be expected to walk with the teachers after school.

Farewell to Ms. Tracey-Lee Kay



This year we farewell a much-loved and highly respected member of our Hastings Primary School community, Tracey, who is retiring after 17 years of dedicated service.

Tracey began her teaching career at Hastings PS in 2009 as a graduate, choosing our school as her very first professional home – and remaining ever since. During her time at HPS, she has taught across every year level and contributed to the learning of hundreds of students. Although she never worked in the BER building, Tracey has been a constant and dependable presence in every other corner of our school.

One of her teaching highlights was the year she worked in a large Prep team of more than 60 students in what is now our Performing Arts space. Those who know Tracey's exceptional organisation and preference for calm, structured environments will remember that she occasionally relocated herself and her students to quieter corners of the school to support their learning. This willingness to adapt, whilst maintaining high expectations for student growth and wellbeing, reflects the professionalism we have always admired in her.

Tracey has also made a significant contribution through her musical talents. As an accomplished singer, she has co-led our school choir, sharing her love of music with students and helping them perform with confidence at local community events, shopping centres, and retirement villages. Many families will have witnessed the joy this brought to our students—and may even have heard a little extra singing practice at home.

A passionate advocate for enriching educational experiences, Tracey has always been eager to attend school camps. Her willingness to give students opportunities beyond the classroom has been appreciated by colleagues and families alike, and her commitment to supporting these experiences has strengthened countless team efforts over the years.

Colleagues consistently describe Tracey as calm, collaborative, and highly collegial. She is known for creating orderly, supportive classroom environments and for her dedication to always learning and improving her practice. Her professionalism, kindness, and steady presence have made her a trusted team member, mentor, and friend to many.

Tracey is also well known among colleagues for her love of the Richmond Tigers. Her steady loyalty to her team—through highs, lows, and everything in between—has been a source of many friendly conversations (and the occasional Monday morning debrief) in the staffroom. This shared footy banter has added warmth, connection, and plenty of good-natured humour to staff life, and it's something her teammates will fondly remember.

As Tracey moves into retirement, we know she is looking forward to travelling with her new caravan, enjoying warm and scenic destinations, and spending time reading, relaxing, and embracing new adventures.

On behalf of the Hastings Primary School community, we extend our deepest thanks to Tracey for her outstanding service, commitment, and care. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and hope the years ahead are filled with joy, rest, and wonderful new experiences.

Thank you, Tracey. You will be greatly missed.



FROM THE AP'S DESK

MRS REBECCA LEGGE ✦



Children's University

Last night 12 of our students who participated in the Children's Uni program went up to the Swinburne University Hawthorn campus and graduated! Congratulations to you all - it was a fantastic night and I can't wait to do it all again next year!



Book Launch

Last Thursday afternoon we had a book launch to celebrate a very special group of young writers from Years 3–6 who have officially become published authors!

Our students worked with award-winning author Coral Vass, who guided them through the writing process—developing ideas, creating characters, and discovering the confidence to believe in their own creativity.

Their finished stories have now been published in a book titled 'The Day Hope Came Home' that they can treasure for years to come. Even more impressively, the students illustrated their own work. The creativity and care in their artwork absolutely blew us away. We are very grateful to Lisa and Carmen from Good Shepherd and the Wallaroo Community House for making this opportunity possible. If you would like to purchase a copy for \$20, please email me.

From 10 December 2025, the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 will require social media platforms to:

- prevent children and young people under 16 from having a social media account
- deactivate or freeze existing accounts held by people under 16.

Delaying access to social media protects the health and wellbeing of young people and gives them extra time to build real world connections and digital literacy skills.

The responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers, children or schools, to implement these new restrictions.

Most popular social media platforms will be age restricted. These include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Reddit and YouTube.

Messaging services and online games, as well as apps and platforms that support health and education, can still be used.

How to help under 16s prepare for the change:

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online.

To help get under 16s ready for the social media minimum age requirements, you can go to the eSafety website to learn more about the social media age restrictions and find tips on how to talk about social media age restrictions with young people.



Mrs Rebecca Legge

rebecca.legge@education.vic.gov.au



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Michelle Aldridge

VICTORIAN HIGH-ABILITY PROGRAM

Big cheers to Persi Barker and Zaire Juma for being selected and participating in the Victorian High-Ability Program: "The Power of the Pen" this term! It's been a delight to support them and see their confidence in English grow!

They have been working online for an hour each week with students from around Victoria to develop a story and also give feedback to their peers. Persi and Zaire will complete the program next week.

Here is a sample of the writing that Zaire has begun creating.

In a dark, quiet town, there was a little boy named Henry. He lived in the cold, gloomy orphanage. He slept on a creaky wooden bed; it wasn't comfy, but he didn't mind. Henry was kind to everyone, no matter what. Some other kids bullied him, but he was still nice.

Late at night, Henry lay in bed trying to sleep when he felt something hard under his mattress. He crept out of bed, then lifted the mattress. There, Henry found an old diary tied with rope. He glanced around nervously, then slowly untied the rope. He turned the pages of the diary and found old letters, notes, and an envelope sealed with red wax. The envelope was dirty but untouched. Henry wondered who had put it there.

Zaire Juma



'Tis the season to be asking
RUOK?[®]

Here's some tips to help you connect and support your colleagues, friends and family:

- Think about who in your world might be finding this time difficult and ask them, 'are you OK?' or 'how are you doing?'
- Meet up for a chat over a cup or tea or coffee.
- If someone is grieving, ask them how they'd like to honour the memory of their loved one.
- Extend an invitation to someone who will be alone during the holiday period.
- Organise a picnic or activity to bring people together.
- Have a virtual catch up with someone you can't see in person or send a text message to let someone know you're thinking of them.
- Suggest a 'walk and talk' with someone you know who finds the holidays tough.
- Drop off a meal to someone to show them you care. Remind your friends that telephone support service Lifeline (13 11 14) are operating 24/7 over the holidays if they need extra support

'Tis the season to
remember those who...



- Have lost a loved one
- Are struggling financially
- Have had a tough year
- Don't feel safe at home
- Are working through the holidays



- Are spending the holidays alone
- Have challenging family relationships



- Are unwell over the holidays
- Are experiencing stress
- Are feeling overwhelmed by world events

'Tis the season to be asking
RUOK?[®]

Get tips at ruok.org.au

Miss Michelle
Aldridge

Michelle.Aldridge@education.vic.gov.au

Hastings PS: 2026 Transition to School

Building the Future

Explore the Foundation Learning Space at Hastings Primary School

Our vibrant and nurturing Foundation space is the perfect place for young learners to grow, discover and thrive. Enrolled students enjoy extra transition sessions designed to build confidence, support friendships and ensure a smooth start to school.

State Wide Transition Day

Tuesday 9th December
9:00 – 10:30 am

Meet on steps outside the Office Building

2026 Prep Dates

Term 1 Curriculum Days - Students to not attend

Tuesday 27th January

Getting to know you session - 1 hour session for parents and students

Wednesday 28th January

1st full day of School

Thursday 29th January

Wednesday Testing Dates - Students attend for 1 hour scheduled time

Wednesday 4th February

Wednesday 11th February

Wednesday 18th February

Wednesday 25th February

1st full week of School

Monday 3rd March



UPCOMING EVENTS

You are invited to the
**Hastings Primary
School Christmas
Afternoon.**



When: Thursday 4th December
Time: 2:30pm onwards
Location: 'Tiger Turf' in front of the Admin building

Wear a 'touch of Christmas'

Sausage sizzle and drinks will be available for sale.



 **SPLASH 'N' DASH**
FAQs

Friday December 12th - 1:30 until 3PM
Families welcome to attend!

Thanks to the Blue Light Disco:
SUBWAY

Meal Deal included with first lap.
\$5 per lap
Meal Deal Notes are coming home with students.

No uniform required on the day.
Wear a rash vest, shorts and bring a towel!

Pay at the office by Monday 8th December:
Cash or Card accepted.



Hastings Primary School 2025
YR 3- 6

Swimming
CARNIVAL


Wear your house colours

Families are encouraged to come and support

CRIB POINT POOL
Monday 8th December

11.00am-2.00pm

What to bring:
Bathers + Rashie
Goggles
Hat
Sunscreen
Drink bottle
School bag with lunch



TERM 4, 2025

CONGRATULATIONS

HASTINGS HEROES



**Zoey
Hermanek**



Wade Baker



Ethan Mendez



**Jack
Churcher**



Benji Yates



Blake Gray



Tracey Zarb

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Lucie Hermanek



Congratulations to this weeks award recipients!

Caring, Respecting and Learning

HOUSE POINTS



450
WALLUM



435
WARABA



285
MURUMBIDGEE



135
BUNYA

HPS Triathlon Team 2025



**Congratulations to HPS Girls Year 6 team
on coming 2nd in their heat**



**Bike Ed
with
Victoria
Police**



2025 Parent Payments

October 2024

Dear parent/guardian,

Hastings Primary School would like to thank you for your financial support as we endeavour to provide the best possible education for your child.

Within our school this support has allowed us to provide special curriculum experiences, enhanced digital learning opportunities, upgrade of our library, upgrade of our playground, faster WIFI and internet.

Our school is committed to ensuring that parent payment requests are accurate, transparent, affordable, and aligned with our requirements as a Victorian Government school. It has recently come to our attention that some changes are required to our parent payment arrangements to ensure they are clear and transparent. Accordingly, we have updated and re-published this year's parent payment arrangements on our school website.

If you have made your parent payments this year and still wish to contribute towards the listed items and activities, no further action is required. However, if the updated arrangements change what you are interested in contributing towards and/or purchasing, please reach out and we can provide you with a line of credit towards other future costs. We can also provide you with a refund if required.

Thank you again for your continued support of our school. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact:

Simone McDonald – Principal

Ph: 03 5979 1517

Email: hastings.ps@education.vic.gov.au

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely

Simone McDonald
PRINCIPAL

Dave Gardner
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

***Payments are made via
the compass portal.***

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

SUMMER Holidays



BOOKINGS OPEN NOW! >>

Get ready for a summer packed with new adventures, hands-on activities, and memories your child will talk about long after the break – all with TeamKids at Hastings Primary School!

Here's what you and your child can look forward to:

- Unique adventures every single day
 - Value-packed programs
 - Screen-free FUN
- Delicious and nutritious morning & afternoon snacks
 - CCS-approved care

📌 See what's happening at your school →

<https://downloads.teamkids.com.au/hastings-primary.pdf>

🔗 Book NOW → <https://www.teamkids.com.au/venues>