



2026 TERM 1 EDITION 1

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 28th January 2026



IMPORTANT DATES

Wed 4, 11, 18, 25 Feb	No Preps at School
Thurs 12th Feb	Meet the Teacher afternoon
Mon 9th Mar	LABOUR Day - Public Holiday
11th, 12th, 13th Mar	Year 3 & Year 5 NAPLAN
Tues 24th Mar	Year 5 & Year 6 Life Saving Day
Thurs 2nd April	End of Term - 2:30 pm dismissal

Principal's Message

Welcome to a New Year at Hastings Primary School.



As we begin another exciting year at Hastings Primary School, we warmly welcome all students, families, and staff to our vibrant learning community.

We look forward to a fantastic year of growth, learning, and shared success.

At Hastings Primary School, we are committed to fostering a positive and respectful environment for everyone who enters our school. Respect, kindness, and cooperation are the foundations of our community, ensuring that all staff, students, and families feel safe and valued.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome to our new Foundation students and their families and wish them many happy years ahead with us. I would also like to welcome our other new students and their families. I am sure the whole school community joins me in welcoming you all to our fabulous school and I trust that your time with us will be positive and enjoyable.

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



We kindly remind our school community that respectful behaviour is expected at all times. Our staff are here to support students and families, and we ask that all interactions—whether in person, over the phone, or via email—reflect our shared values of courtesy and respect. Aggressive or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

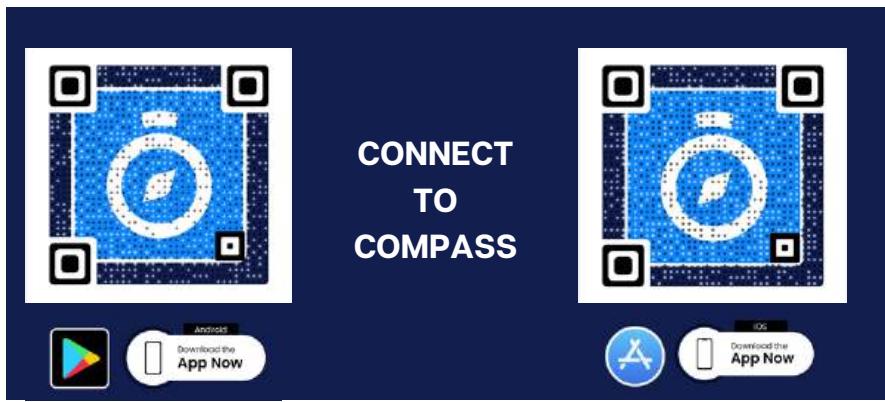
This expectation aligns with the Department of Education and Training's Respectful Workplaces Policy, which promotes safe and inclusive environments for all school staff. You can read more about this policy [here](#).

By working together with mutual respect, we can continue to make Hastings Primary School a welcoming and supportive place for all. Thank you for being part of our wonderful school community—we look forward to a great year ahead!



This is a special hard copy edition of Hastings Primary School Newsletter.

All subsequent newsletters will be electronic and available through COMPASS and the school website.



School Uniform

We would like to remind everyone that full school uniform is to be worn (please be mindful of the forecast and encourage your child to dress accordingly). If you need more information regarding uniform please click on the [H.P.S Uniform Policy](#).

Remember to bring **HATS**. School hats are required during Term 1 and new hats can be purchased from the office if your child requires an update or replacement **\$20.00 each**.

Mobile Phone Policy

To view the Mobile Phone Policy for Hastings Primary School please click [here](#).

The policy requires students to hand their phone to the school office for safe keeping through the day.

Don't forget to bring a WATER BOTTLE each day.

Privacy Collection Notice

Information for students, parents and carers

The Department of Education and Training (the Department) values your privacy and is committed to protecting the personal and health information that schools collect.

All school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law and the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#). This notice explains how the Department, including Victorian government schools (schools), handles personal and health information. On occasion, specific consent will be sought for the collection and use of information, for example, for a student to receive a health service. Our schools are also required by legislation, such as the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, to collect some of this information.

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, student support service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners, and all other employees, contractors, volunteers and service providers of the school and the Department.

On enrolment, and during the ordinary course of a student's attendance at a school, schools will collect information about students and their families for the following purposes:

- educating students
- supporting students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health
- fulfilling legal obligations, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law
- communicating and engaging with parents
- student administration
- school management
- supporting policy in relation to student education and wellbeing.

If this information is not collected, schools may be unable to provide optimal education or support to students or fulfil legal obligations.

For example, our schools rely on parents to provide **health information** about any medical condition or disability that their child has, medication their child may take while at school, any known allergies and contact details of their child's doctor. If parents do not provide all relevant health information, this may put their child's health at risk.

Our schools also require current, relevant information about all **parents and carers** so that schools can take account of safety concerns that affect their children. Parents should provide schools with copies of all current parenting plans and court orders about or that affect their children and provide updated copies when they change.

When parents enrol their child in primary school, they will be asked to provide personal and health information in several ways, including via the Enrolment Form, the [School Entrance Health Questionnaire \(SEHQ\)](#) and the [Early Childhood Intervention Service \(ECIS\)](#) Transition Form.

The **Enrolment Form** is used to collect information that is essential for the purposes listed above, and requests information such as:

- **Emergency contacts** – Individuals parents nominate for a school to contact during an emergency. Parents should ensure that their nominated emergency contact agrees to their contact details being provided to the school and that they understand their details may be disclosed by the Department if lawful, e.g. in the case of emergency communications relating to bush fires or floods.

- **Student background information** – Information about country of birth, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, language spoken at home and parent occupation. This information enables the Department to allocate appropriate resources to schools. The Department also uses this information to plan for future educational needs in Victoria and shares some information with the Commonwealth government to monitor, plan and allocate resources.
- **Immunisation status** – This assists schools to manage health risks and legal obligations. The Department may also provide this information to the Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to assess immunisation rates in Victoria, but not in a way which identifies students.
- **Visa status** – This is required to process a student's enrolment.

All schools may use departmental systems and online tools such as apps and other software to effectively collect and manage information about students and families for the purposes listed above.

When schools use these online tools, they take steps to ensure that student information is secure. If parents or carers have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact the school.

School staff will only share student and family information with other school staff who need to know to enable them to educate or support the student as described above.

Information will only be shared outside the school (and outside the Department) as required or authorised by law, including where sharing is required to meet duty of care, anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and child wellbeing and safety obligations.

The information collected will not be disclosed beyond the school and Department without parent consent unless such disclosure is lawful.

When a student transfers to another school (including Catholic, independent and interstate), personal and/or health information about that student may be transferred to the next school.

Transferring this information is in the best interests of the student and assists the next school to provide the best possible education and support to the student.

For further detail about how and what level of information is provided to the next school, refer to the: [Enrolment: Student transfers between schools](#)

Schools only provide school reports and ordinary school communications to students, parents, carers or others who have a legal right to that information. Requests for access to other student information or by others must be made by lodging a [Freedom of Information \(FOI\)](#) application.

To update student or family information, parents should contact their school.

For more information about how schools and the Department collect and manage personal and health information, or how to access personal and health information held by a school about you or your child, refer to the: [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Photographing, filming and recording students Policy

To view the Photographing, filming and recording students Policy for Hastings Primary School please click [here](#).

Hastings Primary School is committed to protecting the privacy, safety and wellbeing of all students. Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy outlines how images of students are collected, used and shared by the school, and the circumstances in which parent/carer consent is required.

Throughout the school year, staff may photograph or record students participating in learning programs, events and activities. These images may be used to celebrate student achievement, document learning, and communicate with families through school-approved platforms such as newsletters, secure apps and our website. All use of student images complies with privacy legislation and Child Safe Standards.

Parent and carer consent

All parents and carers are required to complete a Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Consent Form as part of enrolment. This consent applies to standard school uses of images and remains in place unless it is changed or withdrawn. Consent can be withdrawn at any time by contacting the school.

Keep an eye out for this form and return it to Admin.

Photography by parents, carers and guests

Parents, carers and invited guests may take photos or videos at school-approved events for personal use only. However, we ask that families:

- Do not photograph other children where possible
- Do not post images or videos on social media that include other students without the express permission of their parents/carers

Once images are shared online, the school cannot control their use, which is why this request is so important in supporting the privacy and safety of all children.

The full policy is available on our website and provides detailed information about:

- how images are collected, used and stored
- when consent is required
- how consent can be provided or withdrawn

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in keeping our school community safe and respectful.

Mrs. Simone McDonald Principal

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications for 2026

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments: your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

School Procedures for the Bushfire Season

With the bush fire season upon us we need to remain vigilant and prepared. Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed on days declared by Fire Authorities as a Code Red fire danger day.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure. The communication process at our school will be:

A notice will be sent to all families as soon as we have notification of a Code Red Day. This may be up to 3 days in advance.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan **– on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**



For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season see:

- <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (facebook.com/cfavic)
- Twitter (twitter.com/CFA_Updates)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

TERM ONE



2026

STUDENT FREE DAYS

School Holidays

Public Holidays

Curriculum Days

IMPORTANT DATES

★ Year 1-6 First Day of 2025

★ Prep Family Interviews - 1 hour

★ Preps First Day of 2025

■ No Preps at School

■ Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN

■ End of Term - 2:30PM dismissal

At Hastings Primary School we focus on student wellbeing, social and academic growth each and every day.



Hastings Primary School

Caring, Respecting, Learning

FROM THE AP'S DESK



Attendance is a priority at Hastings Primary School!

At Hastings Primary School we have a focus on strong attendance because every day counts in your child's learning journey. The Victorian school attendance policy makes it clear that schooling is compulsory for children aged 6–17 and that students are expected to attend school every day the school is open unless there's an approved reason not to be here.

We know life can be busy, but consistent attendance supports academic success, social growth, and future opportunities for your child. Having strong routines from the start helps your child stay connected and engaged with their learning.

Why Everyday Matters

Even a few days away here and there can add up quickly. Missing just one day every fortnight means your child misses around four weeks of school over a full year.

Being at school each day helps children:

- Learn new skills and knowledge,
- Build friendships,
- Feel part of our school community.

We'll work with families to support regular attendance and communicate openly about absences.

How Absences Are Recorded

At Hastings PS, teachers record attendance twice each day to meet state policy requirements. When your child is absent, we ask that you let us know the reason as soon as possible (e.g. via the Compass app or the absence line on the school phone, 59791517).

If we haven't heard from you, we may contact you on the same day to check in – this helps us ensure your child is safe and accounted for.

Attendance is a shared responsibility. Schools, families, students and the community all play a role in supporting full attendance.

If your child has ongoing health needs, appointments or challenges coming to school, please talk with me early. Together we can plan supports that help your child stay engaged and learning.

Let's make 2026 a year of great attendance and great learning for every child at Hastings PS!


Mrs Rebecca Legge
rebecca.legge@education.vic.gov.au