



# Foundation Information 2021



Tuesday 2nd February

## Term Dates

### ➤ Term 1

27 January – 1 April

### ➤ Term 2

20 April – 25 June

### ➤ Term 3

12 July – 17 September

### ➤ Term 4

4 October – 17 December

## Curriculum Days

**5 March**

**19 April**

**16 August**

( these are pupil free days)

OSHClub is open on Curriculum days. Please book through OSH Club

[www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au)

## Public Holidays

**8 March** – Labour Day

**14 June** – Queen's Birthday

**2 November** – Melbourne Cup

## Contact Us:

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3178

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## Welcome!

The Foundation Team welcomes you to a new year at Healy Park Primary School. We look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year as we work together to provide engaging and challenging learning opportunities. We encourage you to contact your child's classroom teacher for any information, questions or concerns. If you wish to make a time to meet with your child's teacher, please phone or email to make an appointment.

The Foundation School teachers operate as a team, working and planning together. We support our students to further develop their initiative, self-discipline and independence as learners whilst nurturing them to develop confidence and a sense of self-worth.

This information booklet has been created to assist you in understanding some of the things your child will experience this year. There will be 'Learning in the Classroom Newsletters' about learning and teaching to keep you updated. This will be published through COMPASS and posted on the school website.

## Communication

COMPASS is our main form of communication with parents. We use this platform to:

- Send newsfeed items and reminders
- Newsletters
- Excursions and Incursions information
- Absent Reminders
- Semester Reports
- Complete payments
- Booking Interviews and
- Emailing teachers

An APP can be downloaded on your phone or you can access COMPASS on a computer.



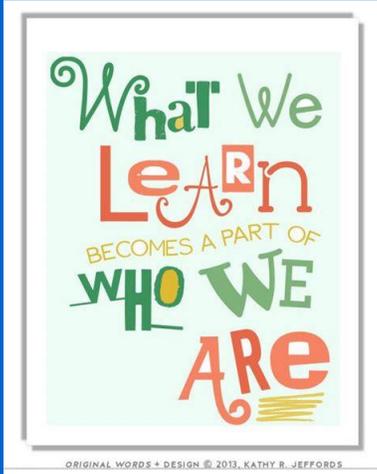
## Absent or Extended Holidays

Parent can advise the school and teachers about absences from school due to illness or an appointment through COMPASS.

Please inform your classroom teacher and the office via COMPASS if you are planning an extended holiday.



The **QKR app** is still available for the canteen and possible fundraising events.



## Special Events:

**16 Feb** – School Photos

**1 Apr** - House Cross Country

**\*23 Apr** – ANZAC Day Ceremony ( 2.30pm)

**\*27 May** – Education Week Open Classrooms (TBC)

**22 & 24 June** – Three Way Conferences

**\*16 – 20 Aug-** Science Week

**21 Oct** - House Athletics

**3 and 6 Dec** – Senior School Exhibition

**8 Dec** – Christmas Concert

\*These events will be confirmed closer to the date, depending to COVID regulations and guidelines.

## Literacy

Literacy skills are emphasised throughout each day across all the curriculum areas.

### Reading

The purpose of reading is to construct meaning from a variety of printed, dramatised and visual texts. Reading is an essential part of our classroom programs and life. We explicitly teach strategies to help support students to decode, make meaning from and enjoy a variety of texts. Students will explore and develop strategies divided into the areas of Thinking Within the Text, Thinking Beyond the Text and Thinking about the Text.



### Writing

Your child will participate in our school wide approach to writing with the explicit teaching of text types for different purposes and audiences. Students will explore a range of genres and develop skills to enable them to become proficient writers. Children will be introduced to Victorian cursive script, and they will practise handwriting on chalkboards daily with dotted thirds, providing explicit instruction and feedback about form, size placement and pencil grip.

### Speaking and Listening

Students will engage in various tasks to develop their Speaking and Listening skills. Students will be encouraged to use a clear voice and appropriate volume and pace when speaking. They will be encouraged to develop speaking and listening skills through participation in class discussions, and sharing their learning. Show and Tell is an integral part for learning these skills and developing confidence.

### Spelling

Through the SMART Spelling Program students are introduced to common words in context. They are embedded in a weekly sentence. Students practise the words and sounds daily. Our first word is 'Cat' and the sentence for the week is 'The cat sat on the mat' and the common words are 'the' and 'on'. Cued Articulation is used when students look at the grapheme, hear the sound and say the sound.

## Numeracy

In the Foundation School students learn to make connections and apply mathematical concepts, skills and processes to pose and solve problems in mathematics. Each lesson includes at least one key learning focus, e.g. Number (counting, place value, addition, subtraction, division and patterns), Space (shape and location), Measurement (estimating and measuring length, mass, capacity and time), Chance and Data (interpreting data and creating graphs). Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught so students can calculate efficiently and develop automatic recall of basic number facts. Lessons will begin with short Number Talks which allow classroom conversation around purposefully crafted problems that are solved mentally.



## Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

### IB learners are:

Inquirers  
Knowledgeable  
Thinkers  
Communicators  
Principled  
Open-minded  
Caring  
Risk-takers  
Balanced  
Reflective



## Transdisciplinary

We commence the year with activities and tasks which allows your child, the class and teacher to get to know each other. An Essential Agreement will be developed in each classroom. This establishes the expectations and guidelines for how the class will operate and treat each other. The Essential Agreement is an important part of setting the learning culture within each classroom. It helps us to settle into new routines and habits for the year and sets high expectations. The agreement supports our School Values and high quality teaching and learning for the year.



Over the course of the year the children will explore six units of inquiry under the different Transdisciplinary Themes. Each unit contains a central idea, lines of inquiry, key concepts and learner profile attributes.

The Yearly Planner which is attached to this newsletter provides details of the units of inquiry your child will be investigating this year. You may want to place this on your fridge for easy reference. Please note the dates for opportunities for you to connect with your child's learning.

## The Thrive Approach

We use The Thrive Approach, a developmental approach, designed to meet the social and emotional developmental needs of all our children. It is informed by established findings in neuroscience; child development theory; attachment theory and research into the importance of play and creativity. Thrive is a specific way of working with all children that helps to develop their social and emotional well-being, enabling them to engage with life and learning. It supports them in becoming more self-assured, capable and adaptable. It can also address any troubling behaviours providing a firm foundation for academic attainment.

At Heany Park Primary School we use a screening tool and activity planning resource called Thrive-Online. This allows us to check that children are working appropriately for their age and to develop the whole group with activities that ensure that they are as emotionally and socially supported as they can be. Thrive-Online will also identify any children in need of extra help. If the screening process suggests that your child would benefit from additional one-to-one support, our Thrive Licensed Practitioner (Sue Houghten) will contact you, and with your consent will carry out a more detailed assessment to develop an action plan that gives specific strategies and activities for supporting your child within our school.

We understand that some circumstances may be sensitive and confidentiality will be paramount at all times when you are discussing your child's needs with us.



Sue Houghten  
Thrive Practitioner

## SCHOOL VALUES

### RESPECT

Being tolerant, caring and supportive, and valuing ourselves and each other

### ACCEPTANCE

Acknowledging differences and change with an open mind

### INTEGRITY

Being ethical, honest and fair in dealings with others

### LIFE LONG LEARNING

Our commitment to ongoing learning to develop skills and knowledge



## Excursions & Incursions

Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to learn both within and outside the classroom with a variety of incursions, guest speakers and excursions. These have been planned to enhance and elaborate on the understandings and skills developed throughout our Transdisciplinary learning.

There will be opportunities for parents to be involved in these events along with other whole school activities such as, Book Week Activities and House Athletics etc.

Incursions and Excursions already booked for this year include

- Responsible Pet Incursion
- Wild Action – The Zoo Comes To You Incursion
- Chesterfield Farm Excursion
- Swimming Program

Further information for events throughout the year, will be sent home via COMPASS at appropriate times. Look out for our first event this year which will be the Foundation Picnic and Information Night!

## Assessment

During Term 1, for the first four weeks, we will be conducting entry level assessments in English and Mathematics to assess your child's literacy and numeracy skills. These assessments are an online process required to be completed by all Victorian Government schools. There is no pass or fail for these assessments; they provide us with a snap shot of what each child can do when they start school so that our teaching programs can accurately meet student's needs.



The literacy assessment involves oral language, letter recognition, reading comprehension and writing. The numeracy assessment involves counting, number recognition and 1 to 1 correspondence. Just a reminder that Foundation students commence their full week of school (including Wednesdays commencing on the 22nd of February).

Ongoing assessment occurs every day and informs us what is to be taught and learnt next. Teachers conduct a variety of assessment tasks throughout the year. This includes standardised assessment and teacher-devised tasks that determine student achievement for reporting purposes. Data from the online literacy assessment is used to begin student's work in reading groups. Student's reading progress including the strategies they are or are not using and their comprehension is closely monitored.

miStAkEs  
are proof  
that you are  
TRYING

Assessment takes place on an ongoing basis over all lessons. It is used to plan teaching content and group students for specific learning needs.

Students who are identified as requiring further assistance or extension will have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) prepared for them. Programs or tasks will be provided for school and at home to address student's specific learning needs. Each term students will be encouraged to reflect on their skills, understandings, work habits and effort. Teachers will work with students to identify, set and achieve personal learning goals to promote their progress.

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## Homework Policy

A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website and an electronic copy will be sent via COMPASS

In Foundation School, reading daily forms the main component of student's homework and children are encouraged to talk about the texts they are reading with their family.

Student will have access to Reading Eggs via the website [readingeggs.com.au](http://readingeggs.com.au) and can practice a range of reading strategies via this platform.

All students will have access to Mathletics online, which provides an engaging platform for children to reinforce concepts learnt in class. Mathletics can be accessed via the app or [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com)

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## Our Foundation School Team



Olga  
Anagnostou  
Team Leader  
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Daniela  
Jorgic  
0DJ



Elisha  
Simmonds  
0ES