



Junior School Information 2026

Term dates

Term 1
29th January – 2nd April

Term 2
20th April – 26th June

Term 3
13th July – 18th September

Term 4
5th October – 18th December



The Junior School Team welcomes you to a new year at Heany Park Primary School. We look forward to getting to know you and your child 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 Junior 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 selfworth. This information booklet has been created to assist you in understanding some of the things your child will experience this year.

Communication

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

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



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

Absent or Extended Holidays

Parents are asked to advise the school and teachers about absences from school due to illness or 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.



Excursions

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. Incursion and Excursions already booked for this year include:

- Mindful Monkey Incursion
- Swimming Program (Fridays Week 1-8 Term 2)
- Special guests that link to our units of inquiry
- McCrae Homestead Excursion

Further information for events throughout the year, will be sent home via COMPASS at appropriate times



Literacy

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

Reading

Throughout the Junior School, students will be taught explicit decoding strategies such as blending, breaking down a word and clustering known groups of letters. Students will apply a range of techniques to show their understanding of the text such as thinking about the topic, making connections, discussing characters feelings, motivations and intentions and breaking down parts of the plot. Students will then practice these skills during independent reading and Guided Reading. Your child will have books each night to read aloud to you. They will also have the opportunity to borrow books from the library

Writing

Your child will participate in our school wide approach to writing with the explicit teaching of texts for different purposes and audiences. Students will explore a range of genres and develop skills to enable them to become proficient writers. Grammar is integral to our writing program. Through explicit teaching your child will be given feedback on their grammar, providing direction for what they are ready to learn next.

Phonics

Through the Phonics Plus Program, our Grade 1 and 2 students transition from foundational letter-sound relationships to a deeper exploration of complex spelling patterns. This systematic, evidence-based approach focuses on advanced phonemic awareness, alternative vowel spellings, and the introduction of morphology (prefixes, suffixes, and base words).

Speaking and Listening

Students will engage in various tasks to develop their Speaking and Listening skills. These include how to listen effectively, how to ask open questions and how to speak in a manner that engages the audience. Students will be encouraged to use a clear voice and appropriate volume and pace when speaking. Students will be encouraged to develop speaking and listening skills through participation in class discussions, asking questions and sharing their learning.

Important Events for your Calendar

12 Feb: School Photos

17th Feb: Mindful Monkey incursion

6 Mar: Curriculum Day (No Students)

9 Mar: Labour Day (No Students)

18 Mar: Family Wellbeing night

20 Mar: Harmony Day

1 April: House Cross Country

18 May: Neighbourhood walk

18-22 May: Education Week

2 Jun: McCrae Homestead Excursion

8 Jun: Kings Birthday (No students)

19 June: Junior Celebration of

Learning Assembly

23 & 25 Jun: Parent/Teacher Interviews

17 July: Excursion to Yakult

7 Aug: Excursion to Rowville IGA

24 to 28 Aug: Book Week

27 Aug: Curriculum Day (No students)

4 Sep: Junior School Market Day

19 to 25 Oct National Water Week

23 October: Grandparents Day

3 Nov: Melbourne Cup (No Students)

4 Nov: Curriculum Day (No Students)

12 Nov: House Athletics

2 Dec: Xmas Concert

4 Dec Silent Disco

16 Dec: Final Assembly

Numeracy

Students will develop 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) Algebra (patterns and structure), Space (direction, shape and location), Measurement (estimating and measuring length, mass, area, capacity, time and volume), and Statistics (interpreting data and creating graphs). Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught so students can calculate efficiently and develop automatic recall of basic number facts. Most lessons begin with short 'Number Talks' which allow classroom conversation around purposefully crafted problems that are solved mentally.



Transdisciplinary

As we begin a new school year at Heany Park Primary School, we're excited to engage your child in activities and tasks designed to foster a strong sense of community within their classroom.

One of the key elements of this process is the development of an Essential Agreement. This agreement outlines the expectations and guidelines for how the class will operate and interact with each other, helping to establish a positive and respectful learning environment. The Essential Agreement is instrumental in shaping the learning culture within the classroom, setting the stage for a successful year ahead. By adhering to this agreement, we aim to instil new routines and habits while maintaining high expectations for behaviour and academic achievement. It is a reflection of our School Values and our commitment to providing quality teaching and learning experiences throughout the year.

Throughout the year, your child will have the opportunity to explore six units of inquiry across various Transdisciplinary Themes. Each unit is centred around a key idea and includes lines of inquiry, key concepts, and learner profile attributes. These units are designed to encourage inquiry-based learning and develop your child's critical thinking skills across different subject areas.

We have included a Yearly Planner with this newsletter, outlining the units of inquiry your child will be involved in this year. Feel free to keep this planner in a convenient location, such as your fridge, for easy reference. Additionally, please take note of the dates provided for opportunities to engage with your child's learning throughout the year.

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 THEMES



Assessment

Ongoing assessment occurs every day and informs 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. At the commencement of the year, all assessments from last year are taken into consideration when planning for learning. Accurate reading data is used to begin student's work in reading groups. Student's reading progress including the strategies they are / are not using, and their comprehension is closely monitored. Assessment takes place on an ongoing basis over all lessons. It is used to plan teaching content and group students according to their learning needs.

Students who are identified as requiring further assistance or extension will have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) prepared for them. Programs or tasks will be provided for the students at 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 learning progress.

Homework Policy

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

In Junior School, reading daily forms the main component of student's homework and children are encouraged to talk about the texts they are reading with the family. Your child will bring home a reading logbook that we kindly request you to help them complete each night after they have finished reading. Some students will continue to receive sight words to help with automaticity when they encounter them in texts.

Students may also be required to complete some tasks at home related to our Units of Inquiry. This may include conducting research or collecting materials for construction.



HPPS

SCHOOL VALUES

RESPECT

Being tolerant, caring and supportive, and valuing ourselves and others



ACCEPTANCE

Acknowledge differences and change with an open mind



INTEGRITY

Being ethical, honest and fair in our dealings with others



LIFE LONG LEARNING

Our commitment to ongoing learning to develop skills and knowledge



MHiPS

Mental Health in Primary Schools

Heany Park PS is proud to continue their involvement in the Mental Health in Primary Schools Initiative, a program developed by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in partnership with Melbourne University and the Victorian Department of Education. This initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of teachers and school communities to support the mental health and wellbeing of students.

As part of this initiative, Heany Park PS appointed Ms Cunningham as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader to support students, staff, and families across the school community. Ms Cunningham is a long-standing HPPS teacher with 20 years of experience, having taught across Foundation, Junior School, Senior School, Physical Education/Sport, and Visual Arts.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader works closely with staff to enhance student wellbeing through the THRIVE Approach, Heany Park's whole-school framework for social and emotional learning. The role also involves supporting staff and families by providing guidance, sharing resources, and helping connect individuals with appropriate support services, both within the school and through external agencies. A key focus is the early identification and support of mental health concerns to ensure positive outcomes for students and the wider school community.

Throughout the year, families and staff will receive information, strategies, and resources through the school newsletter to support positive mental health and wellbeing. HPPS is committed to ensuring that its community has access to the tools and knowledge needed to foster a supportive, inclusive, and healthy learning environment for all students.



Prue Cunningham
Wellbeing Leader

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 concerning behaviours providing a firm foundation for academic attainment.

At Healy Park Primary School we use a screening tool and activity planning resource called Thrive-Online. This allows us to the whole groups social and emotional development and that they are supported in their classroom with activities. 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, from our Thrive Licensed Practitioner (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 Houghton
Thrive Practitioner

Our Junior Team



Lachlan Bell, Eilis McLennan (Level Leader), Samantha Potter, Annette Papas