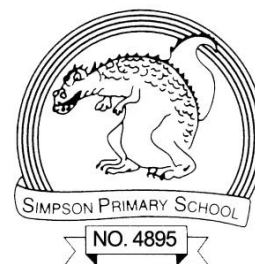


DRAGON TALES

Principal: Melissa Berry
 T: 5594 3298 M: 0458 943 298
 Email: simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au
 Website: www.simpsonps.vic.gov.au



SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

M Berry, D Capizzi, S Costin, B Davies, D Smith, K McVilly,
 O Perrett, P Vines, W Hollick

*Simpson Primary School
 Enriching learning through
 opportunity*

SCHOOL MISSION

Provide high quality education in a positive, supportive environment, enabling all students to achieve their potential.

**Thursday 2nd April 2026
 Term 1 Week 10**

Week 10	30th Art	31st	1st April Breakfast Club	2nd Cross Country - 1pm Last Day of Term for Students – 2.15pm finish	3rd Good Friday Public Holiday
School Holidays					
Week 1	20th April Library	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
Week 2	27th Art	28th	29th MSP School Photos	30th	1st May Pupil Free Day – Staff PL - Next Steps in Responsive Teaching
Week 3	4th Library Responsible Pet Program	5th District Cross Country – Noorat Camperdown College Information Night	6th Breakfast Club	7th	8th Assembly – 2.45pm - Yr 4/5/6
Week 4	11th Art	12th	13th Breakfast Club	14th	15th

Principal News

School Photos – 2026

Our annual school photos will take place on Wednesday 29th April. More information will be sent out as we receive it. Please take note that photo orders will be able to be completed on Compass or paper form.

2027/2028 Prep Open Morning

We will be welcoming all our prospective 2027/2028 Prep families on Friday 8th May. It will be wonderful meeting them and showing them through our amazing school.

Staff Professional Learning / Student Free Day

On Friday 1st May all staff will be attending **Next Steps in Responsive Teaching PL at Deakin University**. No classes will run on this day.

Report Writing Day - Friday 5th June

Friday 5th June is Report Writing Day for staff. **This is a Student Free Day.**

These written semester reports allow you to monitor how your child is progressing in their classroom and in specialist classrooms. This is our way of providing feedback to you on these very important areas and we encourage you to discuss these scores with your child/ren.

2027 Enrolments

It is hard to believe that I am mentioning 2027 enrolments. Information will be sent home at the start of Term 2. Enrolment due dates are as follows:

2027 Year 7 - returned to the school by Friday 8th May.

2027 Prep – returned to the school by Friday 31st July.

School Council:

Last Tuesday night this week we had our School Council Special Meeting and March meeting. Congratulations to the following parent members taking on an office bearer positions:

- Dean Capizzi –President
- Oscar Perrett– Vice President
- Secretary – Chloe Whiting
- Debra Smith – Treasurer

School Council parent members:

Phil Vines, Oscar Perrett, Kate McVilly, Chloe Whiting

School Council Community members:

Debra Smith

Sally Costin

School Council DET members:

Melissa Berry, & Wes Hollick

Staying Connected – Who to Contact

We value open and clear communication and want to ensure you know who to reach out to when needed. You can contact us through Compass, email, phone, or by arranging a time to meet in person.

- Teachers – Your first point of contact for anything related to classwork, learning, wellbeing and excursions.
- Student Wellbeing (Emily) – For wellbeing or sensitive matters.
- Principal – For more serious or sensitive matters, please reach out to me directly.
- School Council Members – If you'd like to discuss broader school matters, a School Council member can help guide you. The council focuses on strategic planning and policies.

- Office Staff – For admin-related questions (Compass, finance, general inquiries), Tabatha is available to assist.

We're proud to be part of our local community and appreciate the strong connections we share. To ensure we all maintain a healthy balance, we kindly ask that school-related conversations take place during school hours or at school events. This helps us stay focused on supporting our students and families.

I hope Easter Bunny is able to find you all with some yummy goodies and to those travelling over the holidays, stay safe.

School Photos 2026:

- Wed 29th April

Pupil Free Days 2026:

- Friday 1st May - Next Steps in Responsive Teaching (Deakin)
- Friday 5th June – Report Writing Day
- Wed 5th August – LLC Literacy Conference (Deakin)

Staff Professional Practice Day 2026:

- Friday 27th November – Assessment & Reporting focus

Swimming 2026:

- Week 5 – Monday 2nd & Wednesday 4th Nov @ 1 – 2pm
- Week 7 – Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th Nov @ 1 – 2pm
- Week 8 – Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th Nov @ 1 – 2pm
- Week 9 – Thurs 3rd & Fri 4th Dec @ 1 – 2pm

Prep/1 News

It has been a busy start to the year at Simpson Primary, with our Preps settling in beautifully and already showing great enthusiasm for school life. It's been lovely to see our Grade Ones stepping up as supportive role models, helping the Preps feel welcome and confident.

In Literacy, students have been exploring the classic tales *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Through these stories, we've been learning about characters, settings, and identifying the problem within a narrative. The students have really brought the stories to life by acting them out, creating story maps, and writing their own sentences and stories inspired by what we've read.

In Numeracy, we've been focusing on Place Value. Our Preps have been working hard on counting and ordering numbers to 10, while the Grade Ones have extended their skills by counting and ordering numbers to 100. We've also been learning about location words such as *in front*, *behind*, *under*, and *over*, as well as practising how to give clear directions to a partner.

We are all looking forward to the Cross Country!

Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support, especially during my first term here. It has been a personally challenging time, but I have truly enjoyed becoming part of the Simpson Primary community.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all again in Term 2!

Kind Regards,
Robyn Anderson



2/3 News

And just like that, Term 1 is complete—what a whirlwind it has been! It's hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by. We've had a full and exciting term, from establishing classroom routines to completing four engaging text units in Literacy, alongside a busy Numeracy schedule. Our Grade 3 students also tackled NAPLAN with great effort, and we enjoyed a range of sporting events including Athletics with Cobden Primary School, District Athletics, and our upcoming Cross Country. It's no surprise everyone is ready for a well-earned rest!

In Literacy, we are wrapping up our work on *Under the Southern Cross* by Frané Lessac, a text that has truly captured students' interest. This unique hybrid text blends narrative and informative elements, taking us on a journey across Australia. Students have loved exploring different locations and what makes them special, all while connecting to the Southern Cross constellation. Along the way, they have been building their writing skills by expanding sentences with verbs and adjectives, and experimenting with how changing the order of details (who/what, when, where) can impact the flow and meaning of a sentence, for example: "***In Darwin, families watch movies at the Deckchair Cinema after sunset.***" to "***After sunset, families watch movies at the Deckchair Cinema in Darwin.***"

In Numeracy, much of our focus this term has been on place value. Students have been working with two- and three-digit numbers, developing their understanding of number value, expanding numbers (e.g. $365 = 300 + 60 + 5$), and renaming numbers in different ways ($25 = 2\text{tens} + 5\text{ones}$, $1\text{ten} + 15\text{ones}$, 25ones). More recently, we have begun exploring length—measuring, comparing, and ordering using both formal and informal tools. A highlight has been measuring our heights using wool, which we will soon turn into a whole-class height wall! For example:



It was a fantastic experience for our students who participated in the P-6 Athletics Day with Cobden Primary School. We were so proud of the way students gave their best in each event and showed such respect and sportsmanship when interacting with others. A big thank you to Cobden Primary School for this wonderful opportunity.

Congratulations to those students who have progressed to District Athletics in Camperdown—we wish you all the best!

Wishing all our families a safe, restful, and happy Easter break. We hope you enjoy some well-deserved downtime with family and friends, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for Term 2.

Cheers,

Jannique Hanegraaf

4/5/6 News

What a term it has been! So much great learning and extra-curricular events have happened. I wish all of our students, families and community members a happy and restful Easter holiday period and look forward to seeing everyone back and ready for more learning in Term 2.



Literacy

Our literacy unit on the text **War Horse** has come to an end with the viewing of the movie version of the book. The whole unit was thoroughly enjoyed by the students, and lots of fantastic learning took place.

Our texts for term 2 will begin with looking at some shorter **ANZAC** related texts, followed by our main text **Tom Appleby Convict Boy**

Numeracy



We have been working hard on our current topic of perimeter and area.

We will spend the first week of Term 2 finishing this topic off.

Did you know?

The perimeter of an official basketball court is 87.78 m

The area of an official basketball court is 436.64 m²

Congratulations to Ted Mahoney who became the latest member of the 90 Seconds Club!

Remember to keep working on your times tables and basic number facts to build fluency.

Cobden Tech and Timboon come and try days.





The year 5/6 students enjoyed going to Timboon P-12 School and Cobden Tech for some come and try days. Simpson students participated in a Maths, Science, Japanese, Cooking, P.E. and Art

District Athletics

Well done to all the Simpson Primary School students who represented our school at the District Athletics at Camperdown Little Athletics Centre. We will keep you posted if any year 3-6 students progressed to the next level.

Science & Auslan News

Science

All of our Science Superstars have been extremely busy throughout Term 1!

Prep/1 Class

Our Prep/1 students have been learning all about **materials and their purposes**. Throughout the term, they explored different materials, their properties, and their uses. They then applied this knowledge to design practical items for Sam and his dog Max, including:

Sam's raincoat – soft, strong, flexible, and waterproof

Max's bed – comfortable and durable

Max's food bowl – light and waterproof

2/3 Class

Our 2/3 students tested the properties of many everyday materials and explored terms such as **elasticity, flexibility, strength, brittleness, and weight**. They finished the term by **designing and building a model of a new piece of playground equipment**, using the knowledge they gained about material properties.

4/5/6 Class

Our 4/5/6 students focused on **food packaging**. Each week, they carried out a variety of tests to determine which materials would be most suitable. They have now begun designing their own packaging, and next term they will **test, refine, and create their own lunch boxes** using materials available at school.

Auslan

As usual, we have been very busy **learning and revising Auslan**, with students progressively becoming more confident and proficient. Across the school, we have explored a wide range of topics, including:

Counting and basic maths operations

Conversations with Grandpa

Describing animals, farm animals, and bodies of water

Visiting the museum

School-related signs and words to use in the city

Family names and our morning routine

General everyday signs

How changing the position of your hands can change the meaning of a sign

Colours, countries, and the alphabet

Sharing stories about what we did on our holidays

With each lesson, students become more confident, and their use of Auslan is becoming increasingly **natural and second nature**. It has been wonderful to watch their skills grow and their communication flourish throughout the term.

Wishing everyone a wonderful break! I look forward to seeing everyone in Term 2.



P.E News





Congratulations to all the Age Group Champions at our recent Athletics Carnival held at Camperdown on Thursday 5th March.

On Monday 30th March, some of our students went to Camperdown to compete in District Athletics. The students tried their best & had a great day. Smiles all Round. Well done Simpson PS.



We look forward to today's Cross Country



Parents Club

SIMPSON PRIMARY
SCHOOL

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 27TH OF JUNE

It's back.. SAVE THE DATE!!

A vibrant yellow poster for a Trivia Night event. The text is centered and uses various fonts and colors. The background features decorative elements like question marks, stars, and a vertical column of five green circles on the right side.

Technology & sleep hygiene

Supporting healthy habits in children and young people

Just a reminder leading up to the school holidays that we all know how important sleep is for our health. A good night's sleep helps us function throughout the day, improving our productivity and concentration. For children and young people, whose brains and bodies are still developing, poor sleep can affect their mood, academic performance and behaviour.

Technology use is one factor that has been shown to impact sleep – how much we get, as well as the quality of the sleep. So when we're trying to set our children up for success by instilling good sleep habits, we should also be thinking about how they use their computers, phones and tablets.

The link between technology and sleep

Technology can impact sleep in a couple of different ways. Firstly, we can become absorbed in what we're doing online and lose track of time. Staying up late on your device eats into the time you would otherwise be sleeping, so you get less sleep overall.

Secondly, using a device before going to bed can make your brain more alert, so it's harder to fall asleep even if you turn in at a reasonable hour. Light from device screens interferes with your brain's production of serotonin, the chemical that makes you sleepy. So staring at a screen right before going to bed can keep you artificially awake.

These effects are more pronounced in different kinds of online activity. More passive technology use, like watching a film or using an e-reader, will impact sleep less than playing games or talking to friends.

Technology use can be compulsive, and self-regulation is often a challenge for young people. So knowing when to switch off and go to bed can be hard.



Learning good sleep hygiene

We can use the term "sleep hygiene" to refer to habits and routines relating to sleep. Just like personal hygiene covers things like showering regularly, brushing our teeth and keeping our living spaces clean, sleep hygiene can mean going to bed when we're tired, giving ourselves enough time for a good night's sleep, and making sure our sleeping environment is comfortable and free from distractions.

Here are some ways you can your child improve their sleep hygiene:

- 1. Create a consistent bedtime routine** – Setting a time or window of time that your child goes to bed each night creates consistency. Having a bedtime routine that includes things like brushing their teeth, reading and relaxing without a device will help support this.
- 2. Leave enough time for a good night's sleep** – Sleep patterns change as we grow, and children of different ages will need different amounts of sleep. Making sure your child is getting the right amount of sleep for their age will help them function at their fullest throughout the day. You can find a guide for your child's recommended daily sleep by age [here](#).



- 3. Make bedrooms tech-free spaces** – It's best if you can keep devices out of your child's bedroom – if not all the time, at least in the hours leading up to bedtime, say from 6PM. They can charge their phone overnight in a shared space and use a simple alarm clock to wake up. This ensures they won't be distracted by notifications or be tempted to check their phone throughout the night.
- 4. Lead by example** – As all parents and carers quickly learn, children are much more likely to imitate the behaviours you model, rather than the adopt ones you tell them to. Make good sleep hygiene a priority for your whole family and stick to the same rules around technology use that you set for them.

5. Talk to your children about sleep hygiene – Like any important issue that affects them, you should make a point of discussing sleep hygiene with your children. Explain to them why it matters and make room to answer any questions they might have.

Play the long game

Like any behaviour change, setting up good sleep hygiene and adopting a healthy bedtime routine can take time. Don't get discouraged or become angry if your children don't take to it right away. Keep talking to them about it, adjust the routine if certain parts aren't working, and keep modelling good behaviours yourself. If you're consistent, you will see the benefits soon enough.



Thanks, Maddison Lucas

🍰 Happy Birthday 🍰

April: Hunter 9th, Sophie 13th, Jack 16th, Evie 18th, Liam 28th



Notes & Annual Reminders

Working With Children Check – Parent & Community Volunteers:

As part of requirements for schools, all parents, carers and community members who volunteer at Simpson Primary School—including helping in classrooms, supporting Breakfast Club, attending excursions, or assisting with BBQs and events—must hold a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) or VIT registration.

To ensure we meet these requirements, we ask all volunteers to provide the school with a copy of their WWCC or VIT registration before participating in any 2026 activities.

If you need to apply for or renew your WWCC, you can do so online using Working with Children Check Victoria – Apply or Update: <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe and welcoming for all students.

Policies:

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice

(see school website).

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#). Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy [Photographing-filming-recording-students-policy-february-2024.pdf](#) describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#).

The Child Safety Standards policies can also be found on the school's website. [Simpson Primary School](#)

Bus Notes:

Please send in a note, email simpson.ps@education.com.au, text the school mobile on 0458 943 298 or ring the front office on 5594 3298 by 10am with any daily, weekly, or termly bus changes.

Parent/Visitor Sign In:

All parents or visitors who are coming into the school for more than 10 minutes are required to sign in. You will need to sign in and out of the visitor register at the office. This allows us to account for you in the event of an emergency.

Uniform:

We ask that you ensure your child is in uniform each day to continue the high standards we set for ourselves. Hats are to be worn until the end of Term 1, and again in Term 4, so please ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat (named) available every day. Those students without a hat must remain under cover, for the duration of recess and lunchtime. If your child requires a new hat, they can be purchased through the front office. Uniform orders can also be purchased from the office.

Named Clothing:

Parents are asked to check that clothing is clearly named. **If you have second-hand clothes, please check that the name has been changed.** If clothes are correctly named, we have some hope of returning items to the correct owners. All lost property of students will be stored at the front office where there are currently quite a few items. Please check to see if you are missing any items so they can be returned.

Communication:

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the office for an appointment or alternatively send your teacher an email. Please note: Staff are often busy in the mornings prior to instruction time, preparing for the day ahead. Staff also have meeting commitments after school on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 3.30pm onwards and therefore it is not always possible to meet after school on these days. If you have an urgent concern about your child regarding any start of year questions or concerns, please make contact through the office.

Daily Routine:

School commences at 8.55am and ends at 3.15pm. Students should not arrive at school before 8.45am. Students should leave promptly at 3.15pm at the end of the day. At 8:53am, the music is played; this signifies to the students that they should move into their classroom and prepare themselves for the daily learning. Recess: 10.55am – 11.25am. Lunch: 1.25pm – 1.35pm (supervised eating) and 1:35pm – 2.15pm (lunch play). 3:15pm is the end of the school day. Staff members are on duty until buses leave, and town students collected.

Late Arrivals:

Students arriving after 8:55am should report to the office. Office staff will record their attendance as a late arrival and students will then go to class. Parents will be contacted by the principal if lateness is becoming a problem.

Early Departure:

If you wish to collect your child from school before dismissal time, they must be signed out at the office. This ensures all students can be accounted for in the case of an emergency. To assist, please phone the office prior to collecting your child so they can be ready for collection.

Breakfast Club:

Breakfast Club is on Wednesdays from 8.45am If you would like to help with Breakfast Club, please contact the office.

Lunch Orders:

Lunch orders are available every day from the Settlement Supermarket and are collected first thing in the morning.

Community News



nab AFL Auskick

GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

Simpson Auskick Centre

Sundays @ 11am

Kicks Off May 3rd



Register Here

For more info contact Brad Salmon
0448038276



Woolworths NETSETGO!

Simpson NetSetGo

Ages 5-10
Sunday @ 11am
Starts May 3rd



Sign up here

For More Info Contact Rachel Perrett
0447752510

TIMBOON INDOOR NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC
PRESENTS

JUNIOR NETBALL

GRADE 2 - GRADE 6

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS

21 APRIL - 23 JUNE 2026

Registrations to
Ellen Podbury 0438 542 483
Amy Rosolin 0437 125 543

Registrations Close Wednesday 15 April

Gobden Technical School
OPEN NIGHT
2026

TUESDAY
APRIL 28TH

4:30-7:00pm

- ✓ Guided tours
- ✓ Meet staff and students
- ✓ Subject and pathway information
- ✓ Explore learning spaces

Follow us on Facebook for more information or call 5595 1202

🚲 The Cobden Code – School Holiday Adventure!

Looking for something fun these holidays?

The Cobden Code is a bike, walk or scooter adventure around Cobden, where kids solve clues, crack codes and uncover a hidden story!

🔗 Ride • Solve • Discover

📍 Location: Cobden

📅 Start anytime between 10am–12pm

💰 Children: \$16 + booking fee

👥 Parents/Guardians: By donation

Suitable for Ages 6 to 14 But all welcome

👉 Book now:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-cobden-code-family-adventure-hunt-crack-the-clues-reveal-the-story-tickets-1984465386391?aff=oddtcreator>



SCOTT'S BMX TRICK BIKE SHOW

A CIRCUS WITH HEART, ROCK 'N' ROLL SPIRIT AND TWO WHEELS



THURSDAY 16 APRIL | 12 PM BBQ, 1 PM SHOWTIME
JAYCEES PARK, SIMPSON | FREE EVENT



CORANGAMITE SHIRE



REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA



CREATIVE VICTORIA