

# DRAGON TALES

Principal: Melissa Berry  
 T: 5594 3298 M: 0458 943 298  
 Email: [simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au)  
 Website: [www.simpsonps.vic.gov.au](http://www.simpsonps.vic.gov.au)



## SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

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

## SCHOOL MISSION

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

**Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> Term 2 Week 7**

Week 8	8 <sup>th</sup> Kings Birthday Public Holiday	9 <sup>th</sup> Book Club Issue 4 Orders Due	10 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Week 9	15 <sup>th</sup> Library	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> Assembly – 2.45pm - Yr 4/5/6
Week 10	22 <sup>nd</sup> Art	23 <sup>rd</sup> School Council @ 6.30pm	24 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> Reports opened on Compass  Last Day of Term for Students – 2.15pm finish
<b>School Holidays</b>					
Week 1	13 <sup>th</sup> Library	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> Additional Library Day
Week 2 Newsletter	20 <sup>th</sup> Art	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Breakfast Club	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> Assembly – 2.45pm - Yr 4/5/6
Week 3	27 <sup>th</sup> Library	28 <sup>th</sup> School Council @ 6.30pm	29 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>

## Principal News

I can't believe we are almost halfway through the year. Leading into school holidays, please look after yourselves and each other. Have a wonderful break, stay warm, dry and safe.

### **Report Writing Day - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **NAPLAN Results**

Our initial NAPLAN results are in and we are so proud of the students. The changes we have been making to our literacy, spelling and numeracy at Simpson PS are paying off. We still have to wait until July 20 to receive our writing results. We will celebrate our data once we receive it all.

### **Home Reading in Prep and the Early Years at SPS**

*"The secret to getting kids to read? Give them books they can actually read!"*

#### **What Type of Home Readers Does SPS Recommend?**

Some children appear to learn to read effortlessly. However, for most children, reading is a complex skill that requires explicit instruction, particularly in phonics.

At SPS, we know that when children are given books that are not matched to their developing skills—books that are not decodable—they often rely on guessing strategies, become frustrated, and can develop ineffective reading habits. These texts can weaken the important connection between what students are learning in phonics lessons and the books they are expected to read.

Decodable readers are different. They are carefully designed to align with students' phonics knowledge, allowing children to successfully decode every word using the skills they have been taught. This supports confidence, develops reading fluency, and encourages effective reading strategies.

At SPS, we are committed to a systematic, evidence-based approach to reading instruction. To support this, we have invested thousands of dollars in high-quality decodable readers for our early years students. We use Dandelion Readers and Decodable Readers Australia, both of which align with the Letters and Sounds phonics program taught in our classrooms.

Once teachers are confident that students have learned the required sounds, a reader containing those sounds is sent home for additional practice. These books also include sight words, which are another important component of learning to read.

To become successful readers, children need explicit instruction in phonics, including letter-sound knowledge and the skills of segmenting and blending. Equally important is daily practice. Decodable readers provide the opportunity for students to apply and strengthen these skills through repeated reading.

#### **What Is the Parent's Role?**

Parents play a vital role in their child's reading journey. To reinforce classroom learning, we ask families to listen to their child read every school night.

Each child will bring home a reader in a folder, which should be returned to school every Friday. Just 5–10 minutes of reading each evening can make a significant difference.

Reading with your child is one of the most valuable gifts you can give them. Children who become confident readers often develop greater self-esteem, increased independence, and require less emotional and wellbeing support. The benefits of reading extend far beyond literacy alone.

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### **Top Tips for Supporting Phonics at Home**

*(Adapted from Phonic Books UK)*

#### **1. Take It Step by Step**

Start small. Children do not need to know the entire alphabet before they begin reading. Introduce a few key sounds, such as *s*, *a*, *t*, *i*, and *m*, and gradually build from there.

#### **2. Build Words Together**

Use letter cards to make simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words such as *mat*. This hands-on approach helps children understand how letters represent sounds and how sounds combine to form words.

#### **3. Teach Reading and Spelling Together**

Reading and spelling are closely connected. When children understand this relationship, they become more confident writers and are better able to spell words using their phonics knowledge.

#### **4. Blend, Blend, Blend**

Encourage your child to blend sounds together when they encounter an unfamiliar word. If they become stuck, provide the sound they do not know and help them blend it with the sounds they already recognise.

#### **5. Practice Makes Progress**

Like any skill, reading improves with practice. Regular reading helps children develop fluency and automaticity. Decodable readers and phonics games are excellent ways to reinforce learning at home.

By working together—school and home—we can build strong, confident readers who enjoy learning and have the skills they need for future success.

### **Important Dates**

#### **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 8<sup>th</sup> May.

2027 Prep – returned to the school by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **Pupil Free Days 2026:**

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Report Writing Day
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> August – LLC Literacy Conference (Deakin)

#### **Staff Professional Practice Day 2026:**

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Assessment & Reporting focus

#### **Swimming 2026:**

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

## Prep/1 News

Prep/ One has been working with Edwina Lumsden who has been on a fourth year teaching placement. The students have enjoyed working with Miss Lumsden in all areas of the curriculum. We look forward to Miss Lumsden returning next term.

### *Literacy*

Students have explored the book *Seasons* and learned about how First Nations Peoples used their deep knowledge of the environment and seasonal changes to guide everyday life. Students discovered how changes in plants, animals, weather, and the land helped people know when to gather food, build shelters, and prepare for changing conditions.

They have continued building their phonics knowledge to support their reading and writing skills. They have been practising recognising sounds and letters and applying this knowledge during classroom learning tasks. Congratulations to Easton and Winnie were reaching 25 nights of reading, Harvey, Brooklyn and Rome for 50 nights and Evaliah for 75 nights. Keep up the great reading everyone!

Students also enjoyed writing about their favourite memories and had lots of fun describing their “crazy hair” using interesting adjectives. It has been wonderful to see students becoming more confident in adding detail and creativity to their writing.

### *Numeracy*

In Numeracy, students have been building their understanding of number through a range of hands-on learning activities. Prep students have been learning their “friends of ten” and Grade Ones have explored “friends of twenty” to help develop strong number knowledge and mental maths skills.

Students have also been practising addition and using strategies such as counting on and adding one or two more to solve simple number problems. Using MAB blocks, students have been making two-digit numbers using tens and ones and developing their understanding of place value. We have also been practising counting by tens and recognising number patterns

Thank you to the community for an amazing lunch. Also well done and thank you to all the families for the super creative crazy hair. All the Prep/One students looked amazing! We have also had visits from CFA and RACV safety squad. It has certainly been a busy term so far.

Kind Regards,  
Robyn Anderson



It is hard to believe how quickly the term is progressing! The students continue to work diligently across all learning areas and should be very proud of the effort and dedication they are showing each day. I am incredibly proud of the way they are approaching their learning and striving to do their personal best.

### Literacy

In Literacy, we have been exploring *The Fabulous Friend Machine* by Nick Bland. This engaging and thought-provoking text has provided opportunities for students to discuss the value of genuine friendships, online safety, and how to make safe choices when interacting with people they do not know. Through these conversations, students have explored the important messages and lessons within the story while also examining the structure and key features of a narrative.

Using Nick Bland's text as inspiration, students are now creating their own narratives by carefully changing selected characters, settings and events. This process is helping them develop a strong understanding of narrative structure while building confidence in their own creative writing.

We are also continuing our **Word Origins** journey. The students have settled beautifully into the routine and are becoming increasingly confident in exploring where words come from and how understanding word origins can support spelling and vocabulary development.

A reminder that **home reading** remains an important part of developing reading fluency and comprehension skills. Thank you to the families who are already supporting regular reading at home. If your child has not been reading regularly, please encourage them to spend some time enjoying a book each week.

### Numeracy

In Numeracy, we are partway through our unit on **Money**. Students have been learning to recognise and describe Australian coins and notes, compare values, and explore different combinations of coins that can be used to make the same amount. Moving forward, students will be developing their skills in calculating totals and working out simple change from purchases. These practical experiences help students to build confidence in applying their mathematical understanding to everyday situations.

We are also currently completing assessment tasks across a range of learning areas, which will assist in the preparation of Semester One reports.



Recently, students participated in a **CFA Fire Wise** session. This valuable program helps children develop an understanding of fire safety, emergency preparedness, and ways to stay safe both at home and in the community. The students were highly engaged and asked many thoughtful questions throughout the visit.



# Winter Weather

Winter has certainly arrived! As the weather becomes colder, please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the conditions. Layers are always helpful, and students are welcome to keep a spare set of clothes at school if families wish.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are helping our students grow into confident, capable and enthusiastic learners.

Cheers,

Jannique Hanegraaf

## 4/5/6 News

### *Literacy*

In our class text we are up to the point of the story when our main character Tom Appleby, a child convict, has been assigned to the family of Sergeant Stanley and his son Rob who is Tom's age. This has been a positive change in Tom's life. The colony is trying to grow its own food, build, expand and survive, however issues such as supplies running low, theft on the rise and disease running rampant on the indigenous Australians is making early settlement in the colony very challenging.

In addition to our regular literacy activities, the time has come to complete our mid-year assessments which has included oral reading tasks, comprehension tasks, spelling tests and writing assessments.

### *Numeracy*

In Numeracy we have completed our addition topic and are now almost finished our subtraction topic. As per literacy we are now integrating some assessment tasks as part of our mid-year assessment schedule.



## Fire Wise Kids Incursion



# Cobden Tech Come and Try day (Year 5/6)

This particular trip to Cobden Tech the 5/6 students completed 2 sessions. One was studying the Indonesian Language and the other was cooking mini pizzas. Once again, the students represented our school admirably.



## Science & Auslan News



## Science News

“Wow!” That’s what I’ve been hearing from students over the past few weeks. The world is a fascinating place, and each week in Science we have been discovering more about it. Across the grades, students have been investigating particles, matter, movement, and how substances behave under different conditions.

Our upper-grade students are currently preparing presentations and designing packaging using what they have learnt about materials. In the middle grades, students have been learning about heat transfer, viscosity, and exploring solids that behave like liquids and liquids that behave like solids.

Our youngest scientists have been discovering how heating and cooling can change substances. From popcorn, chocolate, eggs to water, a wide variety of materials have been investigated. There is always something exciting happening in Science and some of the questions students have asked have truly amazed and challenged me and put a big smile on my face.

## Auslan News

It has been great to see students attempting new words and phrases in Auslan. Throughout the school, we have continued to build and refine our skills while exploring a range of engaging topics since our last newsletter.

Some of the areas we have covered include the correct use of signing space, sea animals, holiday vocabulary, Australian states and territories (it was interesting to see students mapping out the country), northern and southern dialects, everyday household vocabulary, greetings, and how to ask and answer questions in simple conversations. We have also continued practising our holiday song and are improving each week.

## JSC



Our next fundraiser after crazy hair day will be held in term 3 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, which is National Pjama Day then followed by Gene for Jeans Day.

Thanks, Henry and Isaac JSC Representatives

## Parents Club



## 🎂 Happy Birthday 🎂

**June:** 5<sup>th</sup> Charlie, 13<sup>th</sup> Isabella, 19<sup>th</sup> Gabe, 22<sup>nd</sup> Carter M, 27<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn



## 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](mailto: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

**CAMPERDOWN  
COMMUNITY  
STADIUM**



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE

**BOXING BOOTCAMP**





**FOR TEENAGERS**

NON CONTACT | SAFE | FUN | INCLUSIVE  
PUNCHING PADS & CIRCUITS

**FRIDAY NIGHTS | 5 - 6 PM**  
**\$5.50 PER PARTICIPANT**

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Starting in term 2 from 24 April  
To register: email [camperdown.stadium@corangamite.vic.gov.au](mailto:camperdown.stadium@corangamite.vic.gov.au)

 CamperdownStadium  camperdownstadium