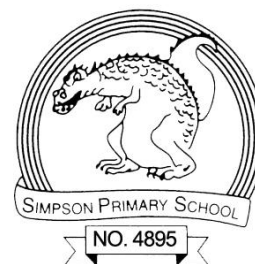


DRAGON TALES

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, M Cunnington, 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 31st July 2025
Term 3 Week 2

School Wide Positive Behaviours - SWPBS

Co-operation Accepting Respectful Excellence

Term 3 focuses:

Co-operation

Show great teamwork when working in teams.
Seek help from the teacher.

Accepting

Fair and trustworthy.
Able to share, care and help others.

Respectful

Use respectful language – Bus.
Listen and participate.

Excellence

Complete all homework.
Using my learning strengths to help others.
Be kind to myself.



Term 3 CALENDAR

Week 2 Newsletter	28 th Breakfast Club	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st Aug Assembly – 2.45pm
	4 th Breakfast Club	5 th	6 th WSW LLC - Collaborative Scope and Sequencing of Writing – PUPIL FREE DAY	7 th	8 th Book club Orders Due
Week 4	11 th Breakfast Club	12 th School Council 6.30pm	13 th 'The Velveteen Rabbit' performance - P-6 COPACC	14 th	15 th 5/6 Hoop Time Rookies Assembly – 2.45pm
Week 5 Newsletter	18 th Breakfast Club Bookfair Opens	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
Week 6	25 th Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6) Bookfair Closes	26 th Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6)	27 th Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6)	28 th Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6) Parent-Teacher Interviews	29 th Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6) 3/4 Hoop Time Rookies

Principal News

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope all families had a chance to rest and recharge over the break. We're looking forward to a term filled with learning, growth, and connection across our school community.

As we begin the term, we want to acknowledge the recent and tragic road accident that has impacted members of our school. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with those affected. During difficult times, the strength and care within our school community become even more important. Please know we are here to support students, families, and staff as needed.

Our New Sandpit is AMAZING!

We'd like to extend a massive thank you to Oscar Perrett and Shaun Guy for their incredible work over the holidays. They removed the old sandpit and rebuilt a brand new one—and what an amazing job they've done!

The students have absolutely loved getting stuck into the fresh sand and exploring the beautifully revamped space. A special thanks to Oscar for adding an extra touch of fun with his buried treasure boxes—a big hit with the kids!

We're so lucky to have such wonderful members of our school and local community.



Attendance

Just a reminder to parents that everyday counts for learning and engagement. We would like families to reduce the absences from school – ensuring that every child at Simpson PS is in attendance for majority of the term.

Thank you to the families who consistently document through Compass if their child is absent. Illness has been circulating through the area, and we appreciate those being respectful. If you are unsure, please call us at the Office, or contact your child's classroom teacher. Education is a true partnership between school and home, and it takes a village to support *our* children.

How many days has your child missed this semester?

0 – 6: This is within normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7 – 10: This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over 1 year of schooling between Prep and Year 10.

11 – 20: This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss out on up to 2 years of schooling between Prep and Year 10.

20+: This is a very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over 2.5 years of schooling between Prep and Year 10.

Remember:

- Students need to attend school regularly to make the most of educational opportunities.
- There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life.
- Poor patterns of attendance in the early years lead to poor patterns of attendance throughout the school years.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult to form positive relationships with their peers.

Term 3 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

We are informing you of our upcoming school council approved Student-Led Conferences next term on Thursday 28th August — a powerful opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning and share their progress with you. Your child is only required to attend school at their allocated interview time to showcase their learning, reflect on their achievements and for teachers to answer any questions regarding their school report. Compass bookings will be open in the upcoming weeks.

Planning for 2026

It's that time of the year when we begin looking ahead and starting to plan class structures for 2026. If you are aware of any changes to your family's circumstances—such as moving schools or relocating—please let Melissa know as soon as possible. You can get in touch via phone, in person, or email simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au Early notice helps us make informed decisions that support the best outcomes for all students.

2026 Prep Transition dates/activities

Term 3

- Regular visits to the school – stories in the library, walk through school buildings.
- Tuesday 12th August – Year 5/6 'Volcanoes' at Kinder
- Tuesday 19th August - Book Week - Dress Up Day Parade with Kinder @ 10.30am
- Tuesday 2nd September - 4yo Kinder Kids/Preps – P.E lesson - @2.15pm

Term 4

- Tuesday 28th October - **4yo Kinder kids – empty classroom visit @ 11.30am**
- Tuesday 25th November - **4yo Kinder kids & prep - activity @ 11.30am**
- Tuesday 9th December - **STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY** 4yo Kinder kids – in prep class with 2026 teacher. Time and teacher TBC

Working with Children Checks

A reminder to all families and community members that a valid *Working with Children Check (WWCC)* is required for anyone volunteering or working with children at school—this includes classroom helpers, excursion volunteers, and anyone assisting with school events or programs.

All adults engaging with students in a volunteer or non-teaching capacity must hold a current check in line with our school's Visitors and Volunteers Policy. Please see Tabatha, if you are unsure whether you have provided the school with a copy of your WWCC.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy

Everyone in the school community has a right to a safe and healthy learning environment and workplace. All school staff have a right to feel safe at work, and protected from any aggression, violence or behaviour that presents a safety risk.

The department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#) describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults.

There are also resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting support resources. You can find the policy and these resources [here](#).

We are fortunate to have a supportive and respectful school community, with minimal negative experiences. Thank you for your ongoing respect towards our staff. It is important for everyone to continue upholding these expectations to maintain a positive and safe environment for all.

Prep News

Welcome back to Term 3!

It's been a great start to the term, and students have returned with lots of enthusiasm and energy. One of the highlights this week has been exploring our *brand-new sandpit*, which was rebuilt and filled over the holiday period by Oscar Perret and Shaun Guy. A big thank you to them for their hard work! The students loved drawing and writing about their experiences in the sandpit. They did a wonderful job illustrating their ideas and tried very hard to write their own sentences.



In Sounds-Write, our students have now successfully completed Units 1–7 of the Sounds-Write program, focusing on CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. We're proud of their progress in building strong foundational reading and spelling skills.

This term, we're moving into the next phase, exploring more complex word structures including CVCC (e.g. *tent*) and CCVC (e.g. *stop*) words. These patterns help students further develop their phonemic awareness and decoding strategies.

In Numeracy, we are continuing to build our counting skills by practicing numbers up to 100. We've begun focusing on numbers beyond 10, particularly learning about the difference between 'teen' and 'ty' numbers and exploring what makes a number a 'teen' number.

We are especially excited to celebrate **100 Days of Learning** this Friday! We have a few fun in-class activities planned, and we invite families to join us for this special occasion.

We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!
Prep Team – Mrs Berry and Mrs Jones

1/2 News

I hope all families had a relaxing and enjoyable school holiday break. Students were excited to be back at school and have been very chatty! It is nice to see the social connections students have formed throughout the year and the excitement they get to see each other.

We've had a fantastic start to Term 3! The students have settled back into routines and are showing great enthusiasm for their learning.

In **Literacy**, we've been enjoying *The Gruffalo* and learning how to use talking marks (speech marks) in our writing. The students had fun identifying character dialogue and practising their own sentences with quotation marks. We are now moving on to a new text, *Ella and the Ocean*, where we will explore the meaning of a drought which students have already identified the drought all farmers have experienced this season in our local area.

In **Maths**, we've been working on place value and counting strategies such as skip counting. Students have been using hands-on materials like MAB blocks, unifix and bundling sticks to help deepen their understanding. We've also been learning how to expand numbers, for example, writing 153 as $100 + 50 + 3$. Students have loved this challenge and are becoming more confident in their whole number knowledge.

A friendly reminder to please spend some time with your child at home if they are still learning to tie their shoelaces. Being able to do this independently really supports their confidence and helps them move safely and quickly around the playground.

Lastly, a huge congratulations to those students who have worked super hard this year to finish their 300 high-frequency words. These students are now able to read and spell all 300 words correctly. Throughout the year, I will continue to check in with them to ensure the words stay in their long-term memory and that they are using them accurately and appropriately in their writing.

Miss Cunningham ☺

Year 3/4

Hello parents and carers. Welcome back to Term 3! I hope all families had an enjoyable and restful break. In our classroom we returned to find some more baby fish! It will be fun to watch them grow over the term. Term 3 is a shorter (9 week) term, however it will be busy with lots of exciting learning, as well as some excursions and sports events to look forward to.

Literacy

This Term we will be covering three class texts:

- The Velveteen Rabbit (we will also be attending the stage show of The Velveteen Rabbit at COPAAC in week 4)
- Leo and Ralph (Narrative focus)
- Mulga Bills Bicycle (Poetry Unit)

Numeracy

So far this term we have been learning and revising the topics of Place Value and Money/Financial situations. Coming up very soon is the big topic of multiplication. This is a topic that some students may find challenging to begin with. Any extra help or practise that could be conducted at home would be greatly appreciated.

We will be learning our times tables (up to 10 x10) or extension level (up to 12x12) and the more proficient the students are when recalling these facts, the more effectively they will be able to apply them to problem solving and real-life situations requiring multiplication as we progress through the unit.

NAIDOC Week

We enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC Week in Week 1. We learned about the history of Indigenous culture and completed some amazing looking indigenous artworks.



5/6 News

Welcome to Term 3!! I hope you all managed an enjoyable break over the school holidays and spent some time with family and friends. It was lovely to stop and recharge after a busy and long term. The students have all returned in good spirits, ready to get straight into learning.

In Literacy, we are currently reading *The Velveteen Rabbit* as we will be attending a performance of this story at COPACC on Wednesday 13th July. The students have been enjoying learning about and discussing the contrasts of the ways of life in the 19th and early 20th Centuries to life that they experience today. We have learnt about different types of toys children had compared to what children have in today's modern world; the differences of how children were raised compared to in today's society – students were quite intrigued with the notion that parents did not show 'love and tenderness' to their children like we do today and that children did not spend a lot of time with their parents in comparison to today. We also learnt about diseases in the 19th and early 20th Centuries and have read about and discussed how vaccines and modern medicine has changed the way we treat certain diseases, the decline in severity of certain diseases, and even the eradication of certain diseases. In connection to the *Velveteen Rabbit*, we have been focusing on the use of personification in writing – giving a non-human object human like qualities. Students have been practising adding personification into their own writing.

In Numeracy, our current focus is Multiplication. This will be our focus over the next few weeks. This is a perfect opportunity for you to aide your child at home with polishing up on and revising their times tables. Throughout the next few weeks, we will be learning about and distinguishing between *prime* and *composite* numbers, learning about *squared* and *triangular* numbers, revising the *multiplication vertical algorithm* and all the while, finding the *multiples* and *factors* of numbers. All students appear to be motivated for this to be our focus, as multiplication can be quite daunting, yet something we use frequently throughout our day to day lives.

Throughout Term 3, our HASS focus will be the *Lions International 'Peace Posters'*. This year, the theme is 'Together as One'. This week, we started these. We spoke about what we think it means 'Together as One' and from this, students have begun making their prototypes of what will become their entry into this exciting competition. I cannot wait to see their end pieces of art.

Our Grade 6 student leaders have been working hard over the past couple of months, planning and organising their project for the Student Leaders Congress. As the focus for this years Congress was all around mindfulness and well-being, our leaders decided that for our school, togetherness and building relationships was an area of importance. They have developed a range of different workshops that are taking place during certain lunch times where students from all year levels can choose to participate, working alongside other students. I am so proud of their efforts and ideas, as this is all student lead, they should also be very proud of themselves. Please see Emily's newsletter piece outlining and promoting these workshops further.

Please remain mindful of the weather and send your child along with warm and appropriate school wear. As always, if you have any concerns or queries about anything, do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers, Jannique Hanegraaf

Student Wellbeing



Glasses for Kids Program – Friday 28th November

Simpson Primary School is excited to be participating in the Glasses for Kids program on **Friday 28th November**. This fantastic initiative supports students across all year levels by providing free vision screening and, if needed, a free pair of glasses.

Even if your child already wears glasses, participation is still highly beneficial to ensure their current prescription is appropriate and up to date.

In the coming days, a small card with a QR code and brochure will be sent home. Please scan the code and complete the online consent form. If you would prefer a paper copy of the form, feel free to contact the school office and we'll provide one.

Please note: Consent forms must be completed for your child to participate in the screening.
We will share further details and reminders closer to the date via Compass.

Emily Bentley (Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Coordinator)

Year 6 student leaders

Lunchtime groups initiative

Our Year 6 student leaders have successfully facilitated their very first lunchtime group, [Dance and Movement!](#) The session saw a fantastic turnout from students across all year levels, with our leaders creating a welcoming, inclusive, and non-judgemental space where everyone felt safe to join in and have fun.

There were plenty of smiles, laughter, and moments of encouragement as students cheered one another on. It was a joyful and uplifting atmosphere that truly brought our school community together. Our student leaders had hoped in implementing such groups, our community of students could come together, support one another, and form friendships with those that they may not have explored yet! This initiative is part of a broader aim to support Simpson Primary School in becoming even more inclusive, improving overall mental health, and reducing bullying. By building peer connections and promoting respectful, shared experiences, these groups help foster a positive and caring school environment.

The Year 6 leaders also took time to reflect on how the session went and are already considering ways to build on this success for future lunchtime group opportunities. Well done to our leaders and students on such a thoughtful and enthusiastic start!



All Simpson Primary students can look forward to the following dates for more lunchtime fun:

- **Thursday 31st July: Craft Group**
- **Tuesday 5th August: Yoga and meditation**
- **Thursday 7th August: Baking**
- **Tuesday 12th August: Friendship group**
- **Thursday 14th August: Brain games**

There is no sign-up or cost involved in the groups!

Trivia Night

Thank You for a Fantastic Trivia Night!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the school at Saturday night's Trivia Night! It was a fun evening filled with lots of laughs, friendly competition and a great sense of community spirit. Congratulations to all our raffle and auction winners—your support helps us make a real difference for our students. A special shoutout to Mr Hollick's table, who took out the top spot on the night—well done!

We are so grateful to our amazing families, staff, and local businesses who helped make the night such a success. It was truly a fun and memorable evening. Thank you again for being part of it!

Keep an eye out for the 2026 date.



🎂 Happy Birthday 🎂

July: Princess 12th, Harvey K 17th, Jules 22nd, Hallie 29th

August: Miguel 6th, Miles 23rd, Thomas V 25th, Peyton 28th, Tom R 29th, Adeline & Harvey B 31st



Notes & Annual Reminders

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).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy – see school website, 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.

The Child Safety Standards policies can also be found on the school's website.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday 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 are on Mondays 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



COLAC INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

JUNIOR PICKLEBALL
FREE Come & Try
Wed 29 July 4.30pm

Open for Grades 5 & 6 and Years 7 & 8.

Keep the kids active with a fun new paddle sport that is easy to learn and addictive once you start playing.

Drop in for a hit, social competition starts 6 August. Enquiries welcome to Paul 0425792949



JUNIOR PICKLEBALL

OPEN TO GRADES 5 & 6 AND YEARS 7 & 8
KEEPS THE KIDS ACTIVE WITH A FUN NEW PADDLE SPORT
THAT IS EASY TO LEARN AND ADDICTIVE ONCE YOU START
PLAYING! SOCIAL COMPETITION PLAY. REGISTER NOW.

REGISTER NOW TERM 3

Your paragraph text

COLAC INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

PORT CAMPBELL SLSC - NIPPERS 2025/2026

Please send a text to the membership coordinator [Georgia] to check vacancies & get started:
0400 124 924

There are very limited places in older age groups, about **8 places for Prep girls** & about **6 places for Prep boys** (as of 01/08/2025). Please check first!

Our Nippers is a 10 session program, 5 Saturdays before Christmas & 5 Saturdays in January, from 11:00-12:30. Attendance at 7 or more sessions is the goal. Nippers is not a learn-to-swim program. Some basic swim skills are required for safety & to enjoy the sessions. Details of basic skills will be passed on when you send the initial text message.

To be a junior Nipper member of the surf club [\$45], at least one family adult/parent must also be a surf club member [\$65] who meets Child Safety standards. Compulsory uniform items are two club hats [total \$40] and most Nippers wear a wetsuit due to the cold water.

Lots of Nippers information will be on the PCSLSC public Facebook page. New membership applications open from 1st August, 2025; once you have met the Child Safety standards. *Swim between the flags* 🧡❤️

Water Security in the Heytesbury Region

The Corangamite Shire, specifically the Heytesbury region, is renowned as the nation's richest milk-producing area.

Given the detrimental effects of prolonged drought and dry years; as recorded in 1967-68, 1982-83, 1994-95, 2006, 2012-5, 2016 and now 2023-25, and the reduction in overall rainfall, we are trying to ascertain the need for a more reliable stock water supply for agriculture in the Heytesbury region.



Photo courtesy of 'The Warrnambool Standard'

A public meeting is being held for farmers by farmers

Wednesday 13th August

**at the Simpson Bowls Club, 1 Fisher Street, Simpson
from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, concluding 9.00pm.**

We will briefly discuss current best practices to conserve water, with the focus on examining future projects to deliver stock water supply to the Heytesbury area.

Invitations will be issued to water authorities, councillors, government and the general public, we urge you to attend.

Please RSVP Bernie Free freedomdairying@hotmail.com.au by 8th August 2025

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