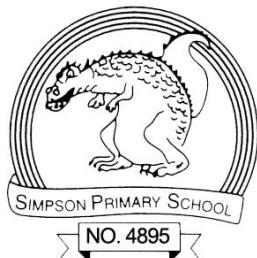


# DRAGON TALES

**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, B Davies, D Smith, K McVilly,  
O Perrett, P Vines, M Cunningham, 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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**Term 4 Week 10**



## Term 4 CALENDAR

<b>Week 10</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Year 7 - Day 1</b> <b>Transition Day</b> <b>Timboon</b> <b>P-12</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Statewide</b> <b>Transition</b> <b>Day</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Library</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Final day for Kinder</b> <b>kids on the buses</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Activities Day</b> <b>Werribee Zoo</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Final Assembly</b> <b>@ 11:30am</b>  <b>Year 6</b> <b>Graduation –</b> <b>after the</b> <b>Assembly</b> <b>finishes.</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Enviro Day – no</b> <b>formal classes</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Enviro Day – no</b> <b>formal classes</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Staff Final Day</b>

## CALENDAR – Term 1 2026

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> <b>AUSTRALIA DAY</b> <b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Teachers return</b> <b>/ Office opens</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Year 1 – 6</b> <b>students return</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Preps commence</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 2</b>  <b>Newsletter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>  <b>Library</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Prep Testing</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Art</b>  <b>All families -</b> <b>Welcome</b> <b>afternoon tea</b> <b>2pm – Library</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Prep Testing</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Library</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Prep Testing</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>

## Principal News

I say this every year, but it truly is remarkable how quickly the school year has passed. With planning for 2025 now complete, we are already looking forward to the opportunities that 2026 will bring. Next year, Simpson Primary School will operate three classrooms and continue delivering high-quality specialist programs in PE, Science and through the MACC/MARC services. Our focus remains on providing rich, engaging learning experiences for every student.

### **2025 School Performance Report:**

Simpson PS has been identified as a *High* performance school in the 2025 School Performance Report. This recognition reflects our strong results across both learning and wellbeing. For a small rural school, this is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the commitment, expertise and care shown by our staff throughout the year.

As we wrap up 2025, I want to acknowledge the hard work, resilience and enthusiasm shown by our students, staff and families. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we continue to build a school community we can all be proud of.

### **Parent Payment Arrangements:**

We are extremely grateful for the response we have received for 2025 payments, with many of our families making financial contributions to the school and to supplement additional programs we deliver. The ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education for our students.

### **2026 Stationary Packs are now available to order online:**

Booklists and online ordering details have been sent home to parents. If you have not yet received yours or have misplaced it, please contact the school.

### **Graduating class of 2025:**

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> marks an important milestone for our Year 6 students. Their journey through primary school began in 2019 when they were just five years old, which may seem like a short time to us, but for the students, it feels like a lifetime ago! Despite the challenges and disruptions to their final year, they have handled everything with incredible resilience. Throughout it all, they've remained focused and determined to make the most of their time in Year 6 and in 2025.

As they now look ahead to their secondary schooling journey, we wish them all the best in the next exciting chapter of their education and personal growth. Congratulations and all the best to our Year 6 Graduates; Peyton Robertson, Martin Mallari, Kalab Chesson, Sadie McVilly, Loklun Membrey, Harry Vogels, Viel Caballero, Josh Vines & Princess Albaracin.



### **2025 Semester 2 School reports:**

School reports will be for view on Compass on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm. Should you require a printed version, please contact the office.

A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for making this year a great success. As we close out 2025, I wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.



## **2026**

- Tuesday 27th January – Teachers Return / Office opens
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Classes begin for Year 1 – 6 students
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Prep students commence
- Prep students will have Wednesdays off until the long weekend in March.

### **2026 Staffing:**

Prep/1 - Mrs Robyn Anderson  
2/3 – Ms Jannique Hanegraaf  
4/5/6 - Mr Wes Hollick  
Science & Auslan – Mrs Naomi Marr-Vogels  
P.E, Sports Co-ordination & MHiPS - Mrs Maddison Lucas  
Student Wellbeing - Ms Emily Bentley  
Education Support – Mrs Paula Newcombe & Mrs Tarni Rankin  
Business Manager – Mrs Tabatha Robb

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

- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March – NLC Numeracy Conference (Deakin)
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Next Steps in Responsive Teaching (Deakin)
- 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

### **School Photos 2026:**

- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April

## **Prep News**

### **Well, that's a wrap for 2025!**

Congratulations to all Prep students and their families for navigating so many “firsts” this year. Our little learners have achieved so much - developing their reading, writing, counting, listening, and problem-solving skills. These are foundations they will continue to build on throughout their schooling journey.

This week, students returned all library books and take-home readers to school. If you happen to find any remaining books or school items at home, please return them as soon as possible.

A reminder that our **Werribee Zoo excursion is on Monday**, and our **final school assembly will be held on Tuesday at 11:30am** here at school.

It has been a delight and an honour to be part of your child's first year of primary school. I look forward to seeing their continued growth during future visits to Simpson and out in the community.

Thanks Mrs Jones



## 3/4News



*Merry Christmas!*

Well, what a year it has been and how fast it has flown! 2025 has been an amazing year with so much fun and learning taking place. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the parents and carers for the support you have given to your children this year. What a fantastic class they are, and I am thrilled to teach them again next year.

I would like to wish all families and community members a Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable break, and I look forward to seeing you all in the in 2026!

### Literacy

We are winding up our last literacy text 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' this week. The students have enjoyed 'unpacking' this old fable and learning some old-fashioned language and new vocabulary. The students are also enjoying performing a Readers Theatre Play type activity on the story, which is promoting reading with expression, tone and throwing in a bit of acting as well!



## Maths Update – Exploring Capacity!

Our Grade 3/4 mathematicians have been busy diving into our new unit on 'CAPACITY' and it's been wonderfully hands-on! We began by exploring a variety of containers, talking about the different measurements we use, and noticing how the shape of a container can change the amount it can hold. There were lots of curious questions and even more "aha!" moments. To bring the concept to life, we read *Who Sank the Boat?* and worked in small groups to build our own mini rafts using icy-pole sticks and tape. Students predicted if their rafts would stay afloat or sink once they reached "maximum capacity." Let's just say... some rafts were *braver* than others! Because so many students love sport, we took our learning even bigger—stadium-size! In teams, students researched famous stadiums around the world, discovering their location, age, seating capacity, major events, and facilities. We compared how "capacity" can mean different things depending on what you're measuring, liquid in a container, people in a stadium, lifts in a building, planes or even animals in an enclosure. We finished the unit with a splash by investigating the capacity of our classroom fish tank. Students estimated how much water it holds, how many fish it can safely support, and what factors might limit a fish population. Then we used a maths formula to test our predictions. It's been a playful, practical journey into how capacity shapes the world around us.



## Surf Lifesaving Victoria Session

What a great day was had by all down at Port Campbell for the Surf Lifesaving Victoria session. The sun was shining the water was pristine! The students had a great time and learned a lot about beach safety. The students also loved the water activities where they got to play some fun games, go boogieboarding and put their rescue skills to the test.



## 5/6 News

We have wrapped up our literacy and numeracy learning for the year. Our final math unit was a busy one, and the students handled it exceptionally well as we explored the challenging content of fractions, decimals, and percentages. We worked through fractions with like and unlike denominators, equivalent fractions, simplifying, decimals to the thousandths place and ordering them, percentages, and converting

between all three forms. I am very proud of how confidently students approached this work. It is very clear that all students are ready to end the year and are looking forward Grade 6 and Year 7.

It has been an absolute privilege teaching the Grade 5/6 cohort this year and watching each student grow and thrive. I wish our Grade 6 students all the very best as they begin the next chapter of their schooling journey, and I look forward to seeing our Grade 5 students shine in their final year of primary school.

I hope to see many of you at our final assembly on Tuesday so that I can personally thank you for your support throughout the year. Wishing all families a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year period. I hope you enjoy a well-earned break with loved ones and find some time to rest and recharge. To those families moving on from Simpson Primary School, I extend my very best wishes for the future.

Thank you for a fantastic 2025.

Jannique Hanegraaf

**Merry Christmas to you all!**



### Science, PE & Auslan News



Thank you again for an incredibly busy, yet fantastic year. I'm so proud of all the hard work, growth, and fun we've shared together. Here's to a well-deserved break, and I can't wait to see what 2026 has in store for us! Thank you, Naomi Marr-Vogels

## Happy Birthday

**December:** Heath 4<sup>th</sup>, Kimble 8<sup>th</sup>, Carter P 18<sup>th</sup>

**January:** Mason 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs Berry 1<sup>st</sup>, Violet 20<sup>th</sup>, Mrs Jones 29<sup>th</sup>, Jayme 31st



## 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.

### School Council 2026:

From 2026, parents, carers and community members who would like to join the school council need a working with children (WWC) clearance to nominate. If you are considering nominating for school council, and don't already have a WWCC, I encourage you to apply for a volunteer WWC check as soon as possible. This will allow for processing times, which are estimated to be from 3 to 12 weeks.

Please note that if you do not hold a WWC clearance, you will not be able to nominate for school council, so it is vital that you prepare in advance. Obtaining a WWC clearance is free for volunteers, and you can apply online at [Service Victoria](#).

When applying for your volunteer WWC check, please nominate the Department of Education as the organisation you are working for.

If you already hold an employee WWC clearance, you do not need to obtain a volunteer WWC clearance to nominate for school council.

Victorian Institute of Teaching-registered teachers and school students who are interested in joining school council are not required to obtain a WWC clearance.

Current parents and community members of school council do not need to apply for a WWC check immediately. Current members only need a WWC clearance if their term ends, and they wish to nominate or be co-opted again.

For more information, refer to [Ministerial Order 1280 \(Constitution of Government School Councils\) 2020](#).

**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](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 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. (Not available on Swimming Days)

## **Community News**

**SIMPSON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS**

**SIMPSON RECREATION RESERVE**

**WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2025**

**6.30PM-9.00PM**

**BBQ DINNER, TEA, COFFEE,  
MILKSHAKES AND  
CORDIAL PROVIDED**

**KIDS ACTIVITIES, JUMPING CASTLE  
AND FACE PAINTER  
VISIT FROM SANTA  
MUSIC BY ANDREA WHEEL**

**PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF SUPPER  
TO SHARE  
ALL WELCOME**

**RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT  
\$1 TICKET OR 3 FOR \$2**

**LIONS CLUB** **SIMPSON SHIRE** **CORANGAMITE SHIRE** **SIMPSON DISTRICT**



### **We are SunSmart - a note for families**

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Stop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

#### **Sun protection times**

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.

Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the [Bureau of Meteorology](http://bom.gov.au) website and live UV levels are available from [ARPANSA](http://arpansa.vic.gov.au).

#### **SunSmart membership**

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect students and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), use **these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.**

#### **1. SLIP on covering clothing**

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



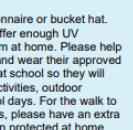
#### **2. SLOP on SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen**

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application each time so they are all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.



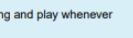
#### **3. SLAP on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears**

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved **school hat**. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra **home hat** to help keep children protected at home.



#### **4. SEEK shade**

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.



#### **5. SLIDE on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses**

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

*Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language.*

[sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)



