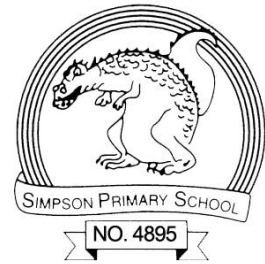


DRAGON TALES

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, A Neave, D Costin, J McVilly, L Mahoney,
M McInnes, R Vogels, S Quarrell

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 November 2023
Term 4 Week 5

The school values underpin a little school with a big heart:

At Simpson we C.A.R.E. -

Consideration- We show consideration towards each other.

Aspirational- We aspire to be the best version of ourselves possible.

Respect- We respect ourselves, others and property.

Engage- We engage to do our best at all times.

We are
CONSIDERATE



We are
ASPIRATIONAL



We are
RESPECTFUL



We are
ENGAGED

C.A.R.E. Awards



Simpson Primary School Calendar November/December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
29	30 Swimming	31 Breakfast Club	1st Nov	2 Mrs McKenzie Music NEWSLETTER	3 Art	4
5	6 Swimming	7 Melbourne Cup Day Holiday	8	9 Assembly – 2.45pm Mrs McKenzie Music	10 Library	11
12	13 Swimming	14 Breakfast Club	15 Yr 5/6 Camp	16 Yr 5/6 Camp Mrs McKenzie Music	17 Art Yr 5/6 Camp	18
19	20 Swimming	21 Breakfast Club	22	23 Assembly - 2.45pm Mrs McKenzie Music	24 Library Family Fun Sports Day	25
26	27 Swimming	28 Breakfast Club	29	30 Mrs McKenzie Music	1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Mrs McKenzie Music	8	9
10	11 Reports sent home	12 Statewide Transition Day	13 Timboon P-12 - Day 2 Year 7 Transition	14	15 Final Assembly @ 11:30am Year 6 Graduation – after the Assembly finishes.	16
17	18 Curriculum Day – Pupil Free	19 Environmental Day – no formal classes	20 Teachers Final Day			

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through Term 4. Teachers are beginning end of year organisation-transition (Kinder to Prep, Year 6 – Year 7), transitions to new classrooms, Year 6 Graduation, end of year reports, the list goes on. We know as it gets busier, we can all forget things, so please if you are unsure about anything, please contact your child's teacher, myself or Tabatha.

2024 Booklists:

School Council met last Tuesday night and approved the booklists for the 2024 school year. For families this will mean that there will be a booklist for each child of the items they require. Families will be able to order the booklists online through COS Office Supplies. Booklists have been home with a letter of instructions. Payment will be made at the conclusion of your order. Once your order has arrived and been checked, we are happy to store them at school for you.

If you choose to purchase your booklist independently, please ensure all products are purchased and that the writing books are those listed, as they are specific to each year level.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Melissa or Tabatha between 8:30am and 3:30pm.

End of Year Celebrations & Special Activities

We are beginning to plan for these. The latest guidelines include:

- State-wide Transition Day will go ahead on Tuesday 13th December with students moving to their new classes for the morning, including Kinder to Prep and Year 6 to their 2023 Secondary school.
- Kinder to Prep Transition Day 13th December, 9am – 10.45am Kinder children can travel to school on the school bus.
- Whole School excursion – date TBC. As soon as this is finalised we will advise all families.

Final Assembly / Year 6 Graduation

Our Final Assembly / Year 6 Graduation will be held on Friday 15th December.

The Final Assembly @ 11:30am with the Year 6 Graduation – after the Assembly finishes. More information will come closer to the date.

The Year 6 Graduation will run the same as last year. The awards will be given out during the Final Assembly, and Year 6 students and their parents will head inside for a short video and presentation.

Attendance

We have been identified as a school that needs to improve on student attendance, focusing on 'unexplained parent choice absences'. I strongly urge all families to make every effort this term to ensure their child/ren are 'AT SCHOOL, EVERY DAY, ON TIME, READY FOR LEARNING'. I know every parent wants the best opportunities for their children and the way to achieve this is to attend school daily. ***Let us make a real effort to 'drive' down our absenteeism data at Simpson this term and make the most of every learning opportunity presented.*** Please make contact with Tabatha or myself if you have any attendance concerns regarding your children. I have attached the Attendance policy to the newsletter for your reference.

Thank you to those parents who are adding attendance notes to Compass. SMS attendance notifications go out daily at 9.30am to families of absent students. If you get one of these notifications, please follow the link to add an absent note or contact the school and we can add one for you.

Alternatively, absence notes can be sent to the school via text message as this may be easier and we can add it on Compass. The school mobile number is: 0458 943 298.

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but.....

He/ She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child can perform is ...
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 years</u>	 Equal to finishing in grade 11
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 weeks per year	Over <u>2.5 years</u>	 Equal to finishing in grade 10
2 days per week	80 Days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <u>5 years</u>	 Equal to finishing in grade 7
3 days per week	120 Days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly <u>8 years</u>	 Equal to finishing at grade 4

Everyday Counts!!

Late Arrivals to school

If you drop your child off at the bus gate and there is no teacher there, please take your child to the front entrance of the school. We have had a few instances where students have been dropped off at the gate and haven't made their way into class straight away or the teacher has not seen them come in late, therefore their attendance hasn't been recorded. We do not want to worry parents with Compass text messages indicating your child is absent when they are at school.

Signing Out

If you need to sign your child out of school early, all parents/guardians must come into the Office area and sign your child out of the school. This is a legal requirement. Thank you in advance for your support with this procedure.

Parent Payments

A reminder to all families that if you have outstanding 2023 contributions, we would appreciate it if payment can be finalised as soon as possible. If you are unsure whether you have outstanding contributions, please contact our office staff.

2024 Prep Transition dates/activities

Term 4

- Friday 10th November - **4yo Kinder kids** – ½ prep class & activity @ 12.30pm
- Tuesday 21st November - **4yo Kinder kids** – P.E lesson - @10.30am
- Tuesday 12th December - **STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY** 4yo Kinder kids – in prep class with 2024 teacher. Time TBC

End of Year Dates/ Reminders

- December 12th – State-wide Transition Day.
- December 14th – Final day of formal classes.
- December 15th – Final Assembly & Year 6 Graduation starting at 11:30am
- December 18th – Pupil Free Day: 2024 planning
- December 20th – Final day for staff.

2024

- Tuesday, January 30th - Classes begin for all students commencing school.
- Prep students will have the first 6 Wednesdays of term off as rest days. Coming to school on a Wednesday after the Labour Day public holiday in March.

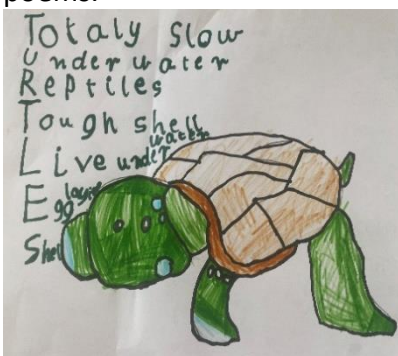
Prep/1 News

Hi Everyone,

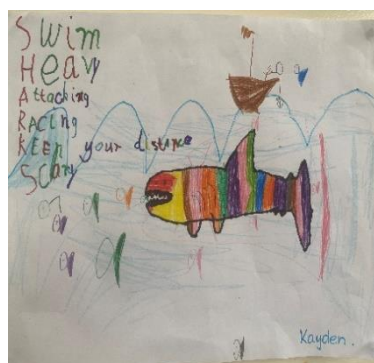
Can you believe we are already into Week 5 Term 4? I certainly can't! Since the newsletter in Week 1 the students in Prep/One have been very busy, swimming every Monday and learning new things everyday in the classroom. They are an amazing group of students to teach, and I am so proud of their positive approach towards learning.



In Literacy we have completed our informative writing task, "Water Safety" posters. Students did a fantastic job identifying ways to be safe when swimming in a pool and at the beach. We have now moved on to our next writing unit "Poetry". All students have completed an ACROSTIC poem, a Sensory poem and this week will be finishing a Shape Poem. Our focus has been writing interesting words (descriptive) in our poems.



by Jules



by Kayden



by Evie

In Numeracy we have been concentrating on Number and Place Value. Students have explored partitioning – breaking numbers apart, subtraction – finding the difference between 2 and Basic Renaming of numbers. Last week we took advantage of the beautiful sunshine and did our Maths lesson outside. Students completed a Subtraction activity in pairs finding the difference between 2 numbers on the concrete.



Finally, our Integrated Unit “Past, Present and Local History” has been well received by students in Prep/One. Thank you to those parents who have sent in photos from local historical sites. We all enjoy learning about our local history.



During the next few weeks, I will be testing your child in both literacy and numeracy for report writing. Please keep encouraging your child with their reading and MAGIC WORDs each night. Every little bit helps in our classroom.

As I always say, if you have any questions/concerns please email me.

Remember my door is always open!

Cheers

Judi Parkhouse

2/3 News

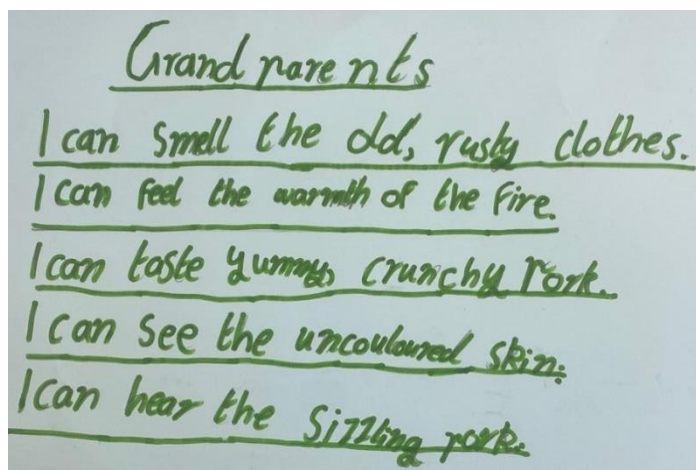
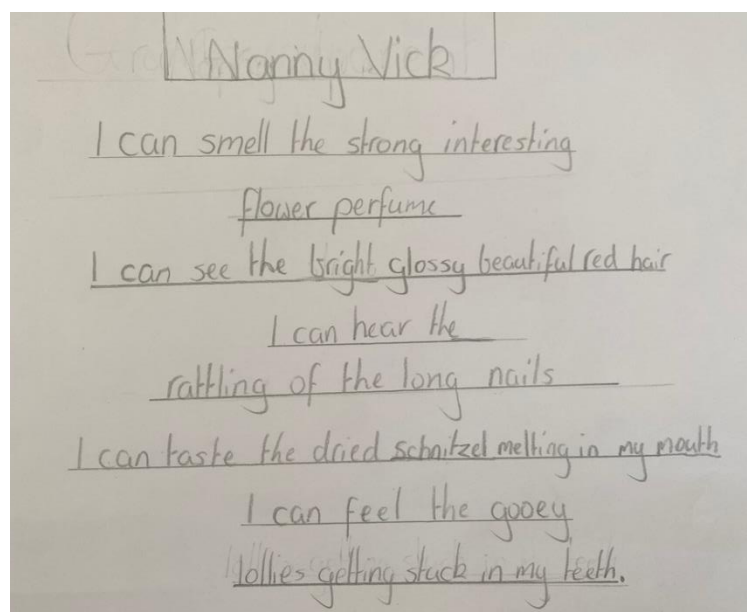
We can't believe it is week 5 already! We were finally able to celebrate having everyone at school the other day. It is the first time in weeks that we have had a full class. Students are getting ready for the busy testing period ahead to see their growth over the year. It is vital that your child attends school on time every morning to ensure we can get the most out of the school day.

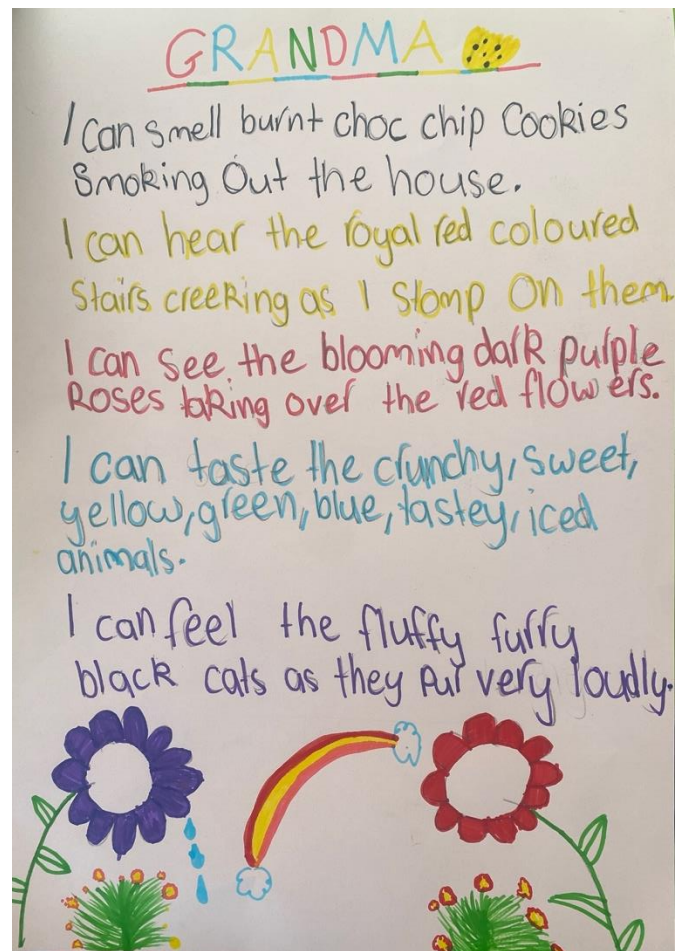
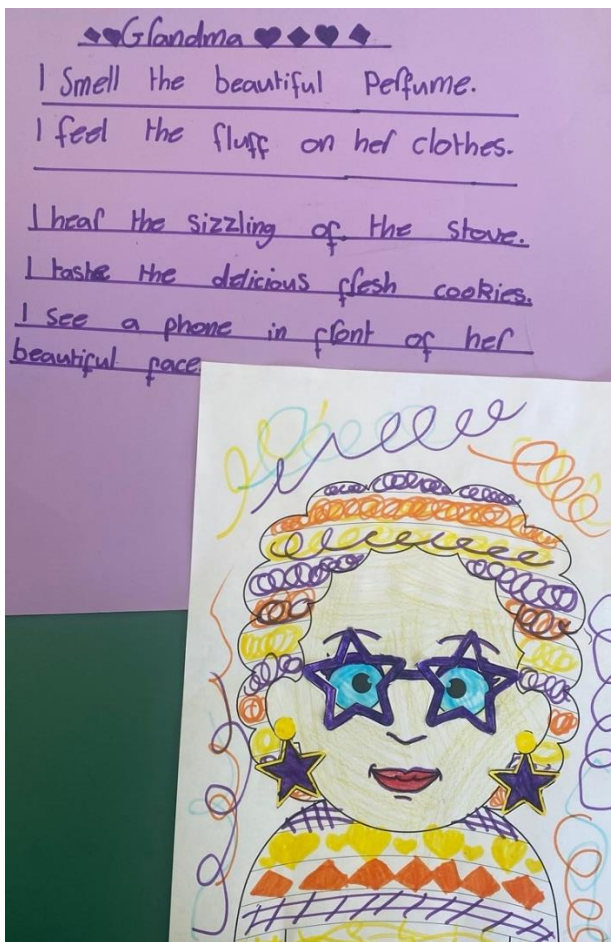
In maths we have finished our topics on chance and fractions. In fractions we focused on partitioning areas, lengths and collections to create halves, thirds, quarters and fifths, such as folding the same sized sheets of paper to illustrate different unit fractions and comparing the number of parts with their sizes. We are now focusing on 2D and 3D shapes by identifying key features of squares, rectangles, triangles, kites, rhombuses, circles, prisms, and pyramids such as straight lines or curved lines and counting the edges and corners.

In writing we have been focusing on poetry. We have explored sensory and diamante poetry. Below are some examples of our sensory poems if you haven't already read them on our schools Facebook page.

Please don't forget to email me or contact me at school if there are any issues regarding your child. I am also available the following times as well if you would like to come in and see me face to face. My email is maddison.mcinnnes@education.vic.gov.au

Tuesday	10.00am until 11.00am
Thursday	11.30am until 2.00pm
Friday	10.00am until 11.25am





4/5/6 News

Almost at the halfway mark in the term! The time between now and the end of term will absolutely fly by. We have so much still to fit in to the term, it's going to be a busy end with Melbourne Cup public holiday on Tuesday, TAPs On happening Thursday 9th November and then Grade 5/6 camp to Melbourne Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th November!

In reading, our class had been focusing on fluency and expression in their reading. This is something that should be an ongoing skill for all students to practise. We have now moved on to the plot, problem/s and solution/s in chapter books. Students are paying close attention to the story to discover if their chapter book is a series of short stories that flow throughout the whole book, with a new problem and solution within each chapter, or if their story is one single story where the problem isn't solved until the end of their book. Please remember to encourage your child to read at home each night and write a short summary in their student diary. I check these regularly (daily when they are given to me by the students), and the students collect individual points for their efforts.

In writing, our class has been looking at different styles of poetry. So far, we have looked at sensory poems, cinquain poems and haiku poems. For the remainder of the week, students will be writing a poem of their choice which will be published how they choose – written or digitally in a creative manner.

In maths for week 5 & 6, we are focusing on Time! Throughout the year it has become very apparent the number of students who struggle to tell the time on an analogue clock. We are looking at the basics of telling the time – o'clock, quarter past, half past, quarter to and the different ways these can be read, e.g., 45 minutes past 3, or 15 minutes to 4 etc. We will also focus on elapsed time – how much time passes between two or more different times. Please assist your child's learning in this area by asking them the

time at home frequently, don't do it for them or assume they know. In the technological world we live in today, children are simply not exposed to analogue time like we were in our childhood.

In our integrated unit for term 4, we are learning about the Australian Government and the different levels of Government within Australia. It is wonderful to see the interest that our students have in Australian history and the way our country was built; how events in history have shaped Australia to be the country it is today.

I thank you all for your support over the year so far, and I am very excited to see how much growth all students have achieved over the year.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!

Jannique Hanegraaf



Malka's Quote about Peace "Peace doesn't just mean world peace. It means peace within our hearts. Believing yourself and having faith in yourself"

Congratulations to Malka Salas on Winning the Lions Club Peace Poster here at Simpson Primary School, Malka's Poster will head onto the next level and we wish her all the best 😊

Science & PE News

News from the science room

Gosh plants and animals are amazing. We are week 5 into our fascinating units about plant and animal adaptations. Our 4/5/6 scientists have been learning all about the harsh conditions of the world's deserts. You would think nothing could survive there but in actual fact deserts are teeming with life and we have been discovering how. Our 2/3 scientists have been asking the big questions. What is living and non-living and how do I tell the difference? What is the difference between a plant and an animal? How do I classify animals into different scientific groups? Sometimes the answers aren't as obvious as you might think. Our Prep/1 scientists have spent the term as palaeontologists. They have been comparing the bones of modern

animals to dinosaurs and prehistoric animals to work out what they may have looked like, how they may have moved and what they probably ate.

News from P.E.

Tennis, tennis, tennis. Practice, practice, practice. Throughout the term our tennis superstars have learnt the correct technique for forehand and backhand groundstroke, ready position, passing shot and lob. They have also become experts and setting and packing up equipment at record speeds. Some weeks we have managed to dodge the rain in time and some weeks we have had to settle for a bit of indoor/outdoor tennis.

I'm looking forward to putting our skills into practice when we begin playing mini tournaments within each class.

Parents Club



Thank you to the Simpson Community for supporting our Referendum BBQ, also thank you to all our Parents & Students & Children who helped on the day, it was a great success 😊

Notes & Annual Reminders

Happy Birthday to the following students – November Landon 6th, Kayden 8th, Penny 9th, Chase 13th, Harry 27th, Miss McInnes 28th, Kalem 29th, Henry 30th.



BUS NOTES FOR TERM 4 --NEW NOTES REQUIRED

Could all bus notes/changes & early pickups, please be submitted using one the following ways:

- Emailed to the school email: simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au
- Send an SMS through to the school mobile: 0458 943 298
- Send a written note in with your child/ren.

Please ensure any changes are made before 10.30am.



We have a few items in our lost property, parents/children are asked to check to see if you may be missing any items. Parents are asked to check that clothing is **clearly named**. If you have 2nd 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. Thank you.

MARC Van – Library:

Primary students **MUST** use a library bag when borrowing, this helps to protect and preserve our library books.

Community News

CREATE A COWICATURE
any medium, any style as long as it's a cow.




Let your imagination run riot with all things cow

Cash prize for top 3 entries

Enquiries to Sue on 0427352588

Entries to the Homecraft Pavilion by 10.30am Show Day

Heytesbury Agricultural Society
2024 Show
Saturday
March 2nd March 2024



Food Vendors Wanted

For the Heytesbury Agricultural Show
Saturday
March 2nd 2024



Simpson Recreation Reserve

Enquiries to Sue on 0427352588



wdea works TRAINING

First Aid Training

Individuals & groups

Timboon

Undertake your First Aid course through WDEA Works Training (RTO T01D 20701)

HLTAID009, HLTAID011 & HLTAID012

Courses available:

- ☒ CPR (HLTAID009)
- ☒ Provide First Aid (HLTAID011)
- ☒ Provide First Aid in an Education and Care (HLTAID012)

WDEA Works Training offers

- ☒ Competitive prices
- ☒ Group discounts
- ☒ We can attend on-site for corporate and group training

When:


25th November 2023
10:00am - 1:00pm
(CPR finishes at 11:30am)

Where:

Timboon Golf Club
29 Egan Street
Timboon 3268

Scan the QR code below to enrol now!

wdea works TRAINING | (03) 5564 7401 | wdeaworks.org.au | training/first-aid





Simpson Primary School

Attendance Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Simpson Primary School on 03 5594 3298 or simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to

- ensure all children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a registered school and attend school every day the school is open for instruction
- ensure students, staff and parents/carers have a shared understanding of the importance of attending school
- explain to school staff and parents the key practices and procedures Simpson Primary School has in place to
 - support, monitor and maintain student attendance
 - record, monitor and follow up student absences.

scope

This policy applies to all students at Simpson Primary School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training's School Attendance Guidelines. It does not replace or change the obligations of Simpson Primary School, parents and School Attendance Officers under legislation or the School Attendance Guidelines.

Definition

Parent – includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for the child, including parental responsibility under the [Family Law Act 1975](#) (Cth) and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

Policy

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 to 17 years (unless an exemption from attendance or enrolment has been granted).

Daily attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they do not fall behind both socially and developmentally. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and participation in their community.

Students are expected to attend Simpson Primary School during normal school hours every day of each term unless:

- there is an approved exemption from school attendance for the student
- the student has a dual enrolment with another school and has only a partial enrolment in Simpson Primary School, or
- the student is registered for home schooling and has only a partial enrolment in Simpson Primary School for particular activities.

Both schools and parents have an important role to play in supporting students to attend school every day.

Simpson Primary School believes all students should attend school all day, every day when the school is open for instruction and is committed to working with its school community to encourage and support full school attendance.

Our school will identify individual students or cohorts who are vulnerable and whose attendance is at risk and/or declining and will work with these students and their parents to improve their attendance through a range of interventions and supports.

Students are committed to attending school every day, arriving on time and are prepared to learn. Our students are encouraged approach a teacher and seek assistance if there are any issues that are affecting their attendance.

Simpson Primary School parents are committed to ensuring their child/children attend school on time every day when instruction is offered, to communicating openly with the school and providing valid explanations for any absence.

Parents will communicate with the relevant staff at Simpson Primary School about any issues affecting their child's attendance and work in partnership with the school to address any concerns.

Parents will provide a reasonable explanation for their child's absence from school and endeavour to schedule family holidays, appointments and other activities outside of school hours.

Supporting and promoting attendance

Simpson Primary School's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy supports student attendance.

Our school also promotes student attendance by: attendance focused program; breakfast club held on a Tuesday.

Recording attendance

Simpson Primary School must record student attendance twice per day. This is necessary to:

- meet legislative requirements
- discharge Simpson Primary School's duty of care for all students

Attendance will be recorded by the classroom teacher at the start of the school day and after lunch using Compass.

If students are in attendance at a school approved activity, the teacher in charge of the activity will record them as being present.

Recording absences

For absences where there is no exemption in place, a parent must provide an explanation on each occasion to the school.

Parents should notify Simpson Primary School of absences by: phone, email or noted via Compass. If you have any problems, please contact the office during office hours Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 8.30am until 3.30pm & Fridays from 8.30am until 10.30am

If a student is absent on a particular day and the school has not been previously notified by a parent, or the absence is otherwise unexplained, Simpson Primary School will notify parents by SMS/push notification message via Compass. Simpson Primary School will attempt to contact parents as soon as practicable on the same day of the unexplained absence, allowing time for the parent to respond.

If contact cannot be made with the parent (due to incorrect contact details), the school will attempt to make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on the student's file held by the school, where possible, on the day of the unexplained absence.

Simpson Primary School will keep a record of the reason given for each absence. The Principal will determine if the explanation provided is a **reasonable excuse** for the purposes of the parent meeting their responsibilities under the [Education Training Reform Act 2006](#) (Vic) and the [School Attendance Guidelines](#).

If Simpson Primary School considers that the parent has provided a reasonable excuse for their child's absence the absence will be marked as '**excused absence**'.

If the school determines that no reasonable excuse has been provided, the absence will be marked as '**unexcused absence**'.

The Principal has the discretion to accept a reason given by a parent for a student's absence. The Principal will generally excuse:

- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or appropriate
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business
- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes and support the student's return to school
- cultural observance if the parent/carer notifies the school in advance
- family holidays where the parent notifies the school in advance

If no explanation is provided by the parent within 10 school days of an absence, it will be recorded as an 'unexplained absence' and recorded on the student's file.

Parents will be notified if an absence has not been excused.

Managing non-attendance and supporting student engagement

Where absences are of concern due to their nature or frequency, or where a student has been absent for more than five days, Simpson Primary School will work collaboratively with parents, the student, and other professionals, where appropriate, to develop strategies to improve attendance, including:

- establishing an Attendance Student Support Group
- implementing a Return to School Plan
- implementing an Individual Education Plan
- implementing a Student Absence Learning Plan for students who will be absent for an extended period
- arranging for assistance from relevant services e.g. SSS, Orange Door

We understand from time to time that some students will need additional supports and assistance, and in collaboration with the student and their family, will endeavour to provide this support when it is required.

Referral to School Attendance Officer

If Simpson Primary School decides that it has exhausted strategies for addressing a student's unsatisfactory attendance, we may, in accordance with the School Attendance Guidelines refer the non-attendance to a School Attendance Officer in the South-Western Victoria Region for further action.

If, from multiple attempts to contact with a parent, it becomes apparent that a student will not be returning to the school, the Principal may make a referral to a School Attendance Officer if:

- the student has been absent from school on at least five full days in the previous 12 months where:
 - the parent has not provided a reasonable excuse for these absences; and
 - measures to improve the student's attendance have been undertaken and have been unsuccessful
- the student's whereabouts are unknown and:
 - the student has been absent for 10 consecutive school days; or
 - no alternative education destination can be found for the student.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in enrolment packs
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION and resources

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Attendance](#)

Policy REVIEW and Approval

Policy last reviewed	2022
Consultation	School Council – February 2023
Approved by	Principal – 12 th December 2022
Next scheduled review date	Before [December, 2026 – noting a 4-year review cycle]