White Hills Primary School 1916

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Respect Responsibility Resilience Aspire

Term 2 Week 5 22nd May 2025 Newsletter

Dear parents and carers

White Hills Primary School has had some very exciting news delivered today by Premier Jacinta Allan. Jacinta Allan and members from the Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA) visited WHPS this morning to confirm funding for our school. We have been allocated funding through the School Upgrade Delivery Fund. As part of this year's investment, White Hills Primary School will receive $9.23 million for the next stage of the school's masterplan, where we can deliver and construct a new gymnasium, which will include a competition size sports court, allocated music area and storage spaces.

This new building will enable exceptional learning spaces for our students and provide us with opportunities to connect to the broader community. I look forward to the development of a new facility for our Physical Education and Music programs.

Pupil Free Day

Just a reminder that ***next Wednesday 28th May*** will be a pupil free day. This is a professional practice day for teachers to moderate work together to support the writing of reports.

Simultaneous Storytime

Students across the school (and country) enjoyed reading 'The Truck Cat' for Simultaneous Story Time. This is a national literacy event promoting high quality reading experiences.

Showcase of Learning

We always look forward to our termly Showcase of Learning events in which parents are invited to come and visit the classroom to either join in learning activities or view current projects that are underway. Thank you to all our families for joining us yesterday for our Showcase of Learning. It is great to see students enjoying their learning with their parents and carers.

Education Support Day

Last Friday we celebrated ES Day. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the Education Support staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure students have the resources and assistance they need to succeed. Their dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment impact the academic and personal growth of every student they support. Our ES provide individualised help, creating a positive learning environment and encourage during challenging times, this team's efforts are truly invaluable. Thank you to our ES team for being the unsung heroes who play such a crucial role in shaping the future of students.

We had a lovely afternoon tea celebrating our ES team and our students made cards to show our appreciation to our ES team.

Division Cross Country

On Friday, May 16th, the Division Cross Country event took place, and White Hills Primary was prominently represented. Our students won multiple team events throughout the day. It was wonderful to witness the students running or walking with smiles on their faces, often chatting with their friends. Whether their goal was to compete against others or simply enjoy the fun run aspect of the event, they approached it all with great enthusiasm. Individually, we saw some outstanding results. The cross-country races were divided into four sections: the fastest athletes competed in the ***blue*** section, followed by the ***red*** section, while the ***green*** and ***gold*** sections were designated for fun run participants. Many of our students placed in the top 100 of the ***blue*** section, a remarkable achievement.

Division Cross Country Placings:

Grade 6 Dexter K 3rd in Green, Josh A 3rd in Yellow, Julia L 1st in Yellow
Grade 5 Emilie C 3rd in Blue, Ruby S 3rd in Yellow, Bill N 1st in Yellow
Grade 4 Sonny S 3rd in Green, Jakob I 2nd in Yellow, Georgia B 2nd in Yellow
Grade 3 Walter S 3rd in Red, Delta C 3rd in Green, Scarlett R 2nd in Green

A big congratulations to Gemma Q, Freya M, Tyler J and Emilie C, who placed in the top 12 of their age group, some advancing to the Region Cross Country in St Arnaud. This is an amazing achievement and something that should be celebrated.

Division Cross Country 2025

Prospective Preps 2026

We held two information sessions for our prospective Prep families for next year. We had many families attend this evening and look forward to welcoming new families to our community next year.

June is a busy time for school enrolments, and we encourage families to apply to their school of choice during this period. If you have a child who will be enrolling at White Hills in 2026, please do so as soon as possible. To begin the enrolment process, you can contact Danni Oswald, our office transition contact, who will be happy to guide you through the steps.

Facebook and Instagram

Don't forget to follow White Hills PS on Facebook and Instagram. We can't wait to share more regularly all the wonderful and special things that happen at White Hills Primary School.
You will know that you've landed on the right page when you see our beautiful school dog Rosie.

White Hills Primary School

1 likes • 5 followers

Regards Bec and Kim

***Calendar of Events* Term 2 2025**

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 4th July

Term 2

26th May – King Arthur Production Incursion

28th May – Student Free Day

29th May – Grade 1 Echuca Excursion

30th May – Division Hockey – Ironbark Hockey Centre

4th & 5th June – Division Soccer

9th June- Kings Birthday Public Holiday

12th June – District Athletics (Qualified Students only)

4th July - Term 2 finishes at 2:30pm

ART – Frida Kahlo **(in line with the recent exhibition at the Bendigo Art Gallery)**

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and White Hills Primary School is excited to be taking part!

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 and aims to help young readers develop a lifelong love of reading.

It is not a competition; it is a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 5th September 2025.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

This year, the Challenge is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the theme '20 years of words and wonder' and a year of special activities. For details, follow the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge Facebook

Since it began in 2005, more than 4.5 million young readers have taken part and together read more than 63 million books!

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklist and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge

You can also contact our school's Challenge coordinator, Miss Alison O'Neill and Mrs Alison Hawkey with any questions.

Happy reading!

Term 2 Week 5 – ASSEMBLY

We invite our families to assembly this Friday to celebrate the achievements of these amazing students!

Junior School Awards		
Prep M	**Hunter**	For always aspiring to do his best and treat people with kindness.
Prep C	**Sienna**	For her efforts in producing her best class work. Well done, Sienna!
Prep D	**Oleen**	For always showing enthusiasm towards his learning.
Prep H	**Kayrav**	For always putting in his best effort when completing tasks.
1F	**Charlie B**	For working hard at his place value tasks and checking his answers
1G	**Hudson**	For always taking the time to help out in our classroom and doing extra spelling homework every night!

1AK	**Flossy**	For working hard to improve her writing with correct letter formations and building her reading stamina.
1M	**Axel**	For having an amazing week and being a respectful and responsible member of 1M!
1A	**Scarlet P**	Scarlet has shown tremendous growth and focus with all of her learning. She is a very responsible and kind student. Well done!
2F	**Sara**	For taking responsibility for her own learning by listening carefully to all instructions and working hard on every work task.
2E	**Jarrah**	For striving to do his best work, especially when using bond blocks and making equations of 10
2TD	**Tait**	For being a responsible learner and trying hard to complete his dinosaur writing.
2K	**Gabe**	For being a responsible learner by making good choices about who he works with.

Senior School Awards		
3R	**Cooper G**	For attending school with a positive attitude and doing a great job researching information
3V	**Gracie W**	For her positive mindset and aspiring to do her best in all tasks
3C	**Leo B**	For always listening carefully, following instructions and completing work to a high standard. You are super Leo!
3L	**Tristan**	For consistently applying himself to his learning tasks. Well done, Tristan!
4O	**Hei Trick**	For always showing great resilience and approaching tasks with a growth mindset.
4HW	**Scout**	Well done, Scout! This week you showed great resilience and effort when completing all your tasks. Keep up the good work!
4CL	**Tristan**	For being his best in the classroom and completing all learning tasks with a growth mindset.
4G	**Lilah**	For being a great classmate and being willing to support others.
5D	**Chad**	For being responsible by getting the best out of his time when working.
5PB	**Cameron**	For being a responsible writer, focusing on checking he has all his explanation features.
5W	**Riley**	For responsibly responding to key emotions
5B	**Harry**	For making responsible choices in the classroom by asking the teacher questions and keeping his belongings organised.
6B	**Kayden C**	For being responsible for his learning and getting the best out of his time at school. He is an inspiration to his peers.
6K	**Ryan S**	For staying on top of his tasks and following through on commitments.
6F	**Marhlee C**	For being a quiet achiever in class and giving her best at learning tasks.

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

Aspire

Specialist Awards

Art Mrs White	**Lailee A (PH)**	For doing a great job with Picasso and the abstract face art
STEM Mrs Hauxwell	**Alirah (5W)**	For aspiring to do her best on a science test, by listening, concentrating and putting in her best effort.
STEM Mrs Treloar	**Tate M (1AK)**	For thinking like a scientist and sharing his observations and understandings with his peers.
Chinese Qiang Fu	**Gabi-Bella (1AK)**	For actively participating in class activities and working hard to learn Chinese.
Music Mr Marsh	**Lexie (6B)**	For her super positive attitude towards constructive criticism and her persistence to get better on the keys!
Sports Mr Scoble	**Jaxton B (3C)**	Aspiring to improve, increasing his beep test score by over 6 levels.

Well Done to all our students!

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Principal Award
Well Done, Henri!

Wellbeing @ White Hills PS

Wellbeing – Volunteers needed

The Wellbeing Team are seeking volunteers to support our Breakfast Club program, currently running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30am – 9:00am. With your help, we aim to expand this program to provide breakfast to students every weekday. If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to Ricky at 03 5443 0799 for more information. Your contribution can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.

Regards Ricky, Brioney, Bec & Jorja

parenting ideas

insights

Getting the screentime balance right

by Martine Oglethorpe

I am always getting asked, 'How much screentime should I allow my child?'

Here's the thing. I don't believe there is a magic number of hours a child should be 'allowed' or 'not allowed' screentime. There are many other more pertinent questions we should be asking about our kids' screentime, aside from simply 'how much?'.

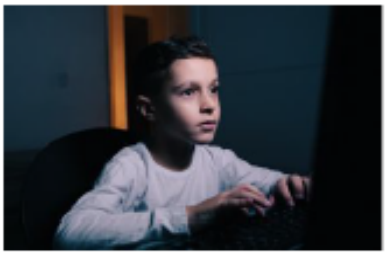
What are they doing on the screens? Are they safe? Are they engaging in positive interactions? Is their self-esteem intact, or are they comparing themselves to everyone else online who is (in their mind) smarter, prettier, skinnier or has more friends? Are they creating things or merely consuming? Are they in control? Are they able to put away a device without a tantrum?

These are just some of the things we should be looking at when it comes to our kids' use of their screens.

Which is not to say that the amount of time spent on screens is irrelevant. It is still valid to be concerned about how much time screens are consuming of your children's days.

To help alleviate some of the concerns you may have, and to put some strategies in place, here are two things you can focus on when it comes to your kids and screentime.

1. Look at the individual child



How is your particular child coping? Each child is different. A boundary that works for one child may not work for another. Is your child in control of their screen use? Are they coming to the dinner table without a fight? Are they sleeping, eating, keeping up with friends?

Conversely, are they showing signs of not being in control? If so then you may have to look at better ways to manage their time. Discuss the issue with your child and explain why they need better balance. Not because the technology is bad per say, but because they need to ensure there is enough time left in their day for all the other activities that are needed for their growth, development and wellbeing.

2. Are all of their other needs being met?

Are they getting enough:

Sleep time: It's super important that kids are getting a good night's sleep. Keeping devices out of the bedroom when they are young, and avoiding the screens for at least an hour before bed, helps ensure their sleep needs are met.

Bored time: Today's kids don't tend to get as much time to be bored as kids used to. It is an important skill to be able to fill in their time themselves. Bored time promotes creative play and thinking as kids are forced to come up with other ways to amuse themselves.

Connection time: Face-to-face interaction is obviously crucial for children's social and emotional development and wellbeing. Time with friends, siblings and family members must always be a priority. Learning to engage, problem solve and read body language and facial expressions are all crucial skills that need real-life time and experience to develop.

Active time: A healthy body and mind requires activity and movement. Kids still love to get out and play. However, some may need a bit more encouragement to remind them.

Downtime: Whilst playing games may be described by many kids as their downtime (and yes, there is some validity to this argument) kids also need downtime that involves doing very little. It is in these moments of reflection, of thinking and of pondering, that our ideas come to us and our creativity for other activities flows.

Focus time: There are times of the day when all of us need to be focused on other tasks. These may be homework, chores, reading a book or the newspaper, building something or making something. There needs to be time in kids' days where they are able to focus solely on a task without the distractions of a screen.

Mealtime: Getting plenty of good food is of course very important to kids' wellbeing. But it's not just about the food. Sitting at the table with parents, siblings or others, focusing on enjoying a meal together without the need of a screen, helps children to develop good habits while they are young which they can carry into the future.

Obviously there will be times when all these needs are not completely balanced. There will be periods when screens are used more often and times when one or more valuable needs is neglected. But if we can use this as a guide and aim to fit the many key experiences our kids need into each day, we are much more likely to ensure our kids grow up with a healthy respect for their screens and a healthy respect for the many areas of their life that need to be nurtured.

Martine Oglethorpe

Martine Oglethorpe is a speaker, counsellor and educator with a passion for building resilient kids in a digital world. Martine is available for student workshops focused on positive online behaviours, for teacher professional development on how the digital world affects what happens in the classroom and for corporate and parent information sessions. For more information head to her website themodernparent.net. Contact details: info@martineoglethorpe.com.au, themodernparent.net, facebook.com/themodernparent

Cyber Safety Project

Tech Safe Parents - 2025 Webinar Series: The Social Media Guide: What Every Parent Needs to Know in 2025

Did you know 21% of students have public social media profiles? *

Feeling overwhelmed by your child's online presence and wondering who is viewing their activities? Learn how to master privacy settings, encourage healthy social media habits and navigate Australia's new social media ban—all with simple, actionable strategies you can use right away. Whether you're a tech-savvy parent or starting to discover social media yourself, this webinar has something for everyone.

Tuesday 3 June 2025, 7.30pm AEST

A big thank you to the below for sponsoring our 2025 Open Air Cinema Night

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