White Hills Primary School 1916

white.hills.ps@education.vic.gov.au

03 5443 0799

Respect Responsibility Resilience Aspire

Term 4 Week 9, 4th November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mrs Harper continues her leave until Wednesday 10th December, but will be joining us for our Christmas concert on Tuesday 9th December. Our students are busy practising for the concert, held on the stage at the Gardens for the Future (located directly behind the school). Families are invited to bring their own dinner, chairs or picnic rugs from 5:30pm, with the concert beginning at 6:00pm. The evening will conclude at approximately 7:30pm, after each year level performs a christmas song and the end of year awards are presented. The awards include:

- Year level Values Awards,
- Noel O'Brien Grade 4 Friendship award
- Year 6: BJ Winzer Award
- Year 6 Specialist Awards
- Year 6 Academic Awards

Calendar of Events Term 4 2025

Term 4 – 6th October – 19th December

December:

Weds 3rd – Fri 5th – Grade 5 Camp Phillip Island
Thurs 4th – Grade 1 End of year celebration
Thurs 4th – Fri 5th - Grade 2 Sleepover
Tues 9th – Statewide Orientation Day
Tues 9th- Christmas Concert (6pm Garden for the Future)
Wed 10th – Grade 6 Enterprise showcase
Fri 12th – Christmas Raffle Drawn at assembly
Mon 15th- Santa Visits school for Prep- Grade 2
Wed 17th – Grade 6 Graduation
Thurs 18th – Grade 5 & 6 Pool Party
Fri 19th- Last day of Term!!! Finish at 1:30pm

Term 1 – January 2026

Thursday 22nd Jan between 8:30am – 5:00pm – Book Collection for Grade 1 – 6 in the school sports shed
Wed 28th Jan – Start up Interviews
Thurs 29th Jan – Prep to Grade 6 start

Our Year 5s are having a fantastic camp at Phillip Island. Mr Dickens reports that they had fantastic weather yesterday which meant a great day at the beach and a warm night for spotting penguins. Today is very windy, but the students are making the most of it with canoeing, tandem flying fox, low ropes, archery and the giant swing on today's activity list.. The students' strength was challenged at

the giant swing having to pull the teachers 16m into the air!! We hope they have a great night tonight and look forward to seeing them all tomorrow.
Our Year 2 students have their sleepover tonight and we are looking forward to seeing them at 5.30pm. The pizzas have been ordered and the movies selected! We also hope our Year 1s enjoy their Year 1 Tea, starting at The Zone at 5.30pm. What a busy night for our Junior School.

Student Leaders for 2026

At last Friday's assembly, we announced our 2026 student leaders. Congratulations to the following students:

Edie Jongebloed, Violet Dennis, Poppy Reynolds, Peyton Richardson, Samuel Sinclair, David Ungapembe, Abbey-Leigh Warner, Amity Poynton, Ruby Sait, Billie Lothian, Hamish Parry and Sophie Hawkswood

New Staff in 2026

We are excited to welcome the following new staff for next year, Clare Daly, Ainsley Jones, Mitch Davey, Hannah Vibert, Kaitlin Belsar and Talia Cosgriff.
We also welcome returning staff Kaitlyn Morrissey, Kristy Bateman, Cadi Watchman and Josh Weymouth.

Orientation Day - Tuesday 9th of December

Our 2026 Grades 1–6 students transition to their new classes from 12:00–2:00pm on Tuesday 9 December as part of Statewide Orientation Day. It's an exciting time as students meet their new teacher and start to get to know their 2026 peers. It will be a highlight of the week as students begin to learn more about the year ahead. A note will be sent home informing families of their child's 2026 teacher, along with a map of their new classroom.
We are also looking forward to welcoming 84 of our incoming 2026 Prep students from 12:15–1:45pm. We will be holding a further information session on the 9th December for 2026 Prep parents from 12.20pm - 12.45pm. Once you have dropped your child at their new classroom for this session, please join the Leadership team in the staffroom for further information or questions. We will also do a brief school tour for any parents wishing to participate.
Finally, our Grade 6 students will be offsite visiting their government secondary schools to experience their new learning environments and classes. For students going to independent secondary schools, they are not required to attend school, however, if they are coming to school, please contact your child's classroom teacher so that we can allocate them to classrooms to help with transition sessions for the day.

Start Up Interviews 2026

We will be holding Startup Interviews on Wednesday 28th of January. This will be a 10 minute 'get to know you' session with your child's new teacher. This is a great start to our schooling year in which we can begin building our parent and school partnerships for the new year.

The interviews will be booked through Compass and these will be opened during the school holidays when all the 2026 classes have been rolled over. Please keep an eye out during the holidays for emails confirming when bookings open.

Kind Regards,

Bec, Kim & Eddy

White Hills Primary School

316 likes • 412 followers

Don't forget to give our Facebook & Instagram page a like and follow.
We share lots of great photos of our amazing students.

Student of the Week

Term 4 Week 9

Junior School Awards		
Prep M	**All of Prep M**	For being kind and supporting each other in their learning and in the yard.
Prep C	**Sienna and Alice**	For trying their best and following all of the school values.
Prep D	**Marlon**	For being a positive class member throughout 2025.
Prep H	**Lenny**	For always showing his whole body listening.
1F	**Lewis Trigg**	For supporting other students with their oral retell of narratives and encouraging them to have a go!
1G	**Clyde**	For aspiring to be the very best learner you can be all day every day.
1AK	**Flossy**	For bouncing back quickly when things haven't gone her way.
1M		
1L	**Vincent**	For always working at being his best. Vincent is regularly helping others and is a great classmate. Well done.
2E		
2TD		
2K		
2F		

Senior School Awards		
3R	**Kahlani**	For being a friendly and helpful member of the class who is always on task
3V	**Ellie M**	For bouncing back in the classroom and completing wonderful work this week, awesome work Ellie.
3C	**Lachlan A**	For being resilient and overcoming challenges in writing to produce wonderful poems. Keep up the great work Lachlan!
3L	**Ryder**	For continuously setting a great example to his classmates
4O	**Hailey**	For always trying her best and having a fantastic year!
4HW	**Georgia**	For trying hard to share her thoughts and answers during class time.
4CL	**Ethan**	For improving his listening skills in the classroom and trying his best to ignore distractions
4G	**Indi**	For challenging herself in the classroom and displaying great resilience.
5D	**Maynard**	Tackling all camp activities with enthusiasm and showing care towards others
5PB	**David & Dahlia**	For being an amazing help in Prep D this week.
5W	**Ivy**	For being super resilient and giving every camp activity a go
5B	**Emilie C**	For giving all activities a go on camp and being respectful towards all students and adults.

6B	**Alexa, Soraya and Olivia**	For winning the class debate about social media use
6K	**Tyler H**	Tyler for setting personal goals and working hard to achieve them, showing real persistence and pride in his growth.
6F	**Lucia**	Lucia is continuing to push herself in reading sessions despite it almost being the end of her primary school journey.

Specialist Awards		
Art Mrs White	**Matilda (1G)**	For producing a wonderful clay hand painting
Art Mrs Cosgriff	**Molly O (3L)**	For her unique and detailed Zentangle patterns. She demonstrated wonderful resilience, taking her time to complete a beautifully intricate artwork.
STEM Mrs Treloar	**Milla H (3R)**	For being a responsible role model for her peers and completing all STEM tasks with a creative attitude.
STEM Mrs Hauxwell	**Jade (PM)**	For her best STEM lesson yet, and an incredible toy design she made all by herself.
Music Mr Marsh	**The Karen Students**	For their amazing work on their Christmas Concert item. These talented and clever students will perform a very special number at the school concert next week and their efforts have been terrific. Keep up the practice for the show kids!
Chinese Mr Fu	**Alina (3V)**	For always displaying a great learning attitude and actively participating in classroom activities.
Sports Mrs Tanner/Mr Scoble	**Nixon T (5W)**	For being patient when working with other students and showing good development in his badminton skills.

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

Student of the Week – Week 8

Principal Award – Ruby V

Wellbeing @ White Hills

Supporting young people to navigate the social media age change

The Australian Government's new law restricting social media use for under-16s comes into effect on December 10, 2025. Here are some ways you can show up for young people with empathy and practical support during this moment of change.

Remember, this law isn't about young people getting in trouble

The responsibility to ensure under-16s aren't on social media lies with social media companies, not kids, families, teachers, or workers. No one should feel afraid of being punished for using social media. What matters most is that young people still feel safe to speak up about harm – these laws don't change that.

If a young person experiences harm online, they can still report it – to **eSafety**, their school, or directly to the platform (if possible without an account). Reaching out for help will not get them in trouble.

Your role: Keep supporting young people who disclose harm, and remind them that reporting is still encouraged.

Expect real grief and support young people through it

For many teens, this change will feel like genuine loss. Not because they're 'addicted' to screens, but because they're losing spaces that help them in meaningful ways.

Social media may be where they talk to cousins overseas, stay in touch with old friends, or find identity-affirming communities. Losing that can bring sadness, anger, or withdrawal, which are all valid responses. This isn't the moment to say "go outside more," but to listen and acknowledge that this is real for them.

Your role: Validate grief, listen with empathy, and support them even if you don't fully understand their attachment to online spaces.

Open up curious conversations

Young people will find new ways to connect online – that's what they do. The best thing adults can do is to stay curiously engaged, not step back.

Ask where they're spending time, why it matters, and what they enjoy there. You don't need to monitor or interrogate them, instead just show interest. Meanwhile, keep building your own digital literacy to understand the spaces they're exploring.

Your role: Stay curious and keep communication open. Ask about their online world and build trust through genuine interest.

Actively support young people with the transition

Adults often say, "Well, we're not banning the internet." But for many teens, social media *is* the internet. So this change will bring real gaps in how young people learn about the world, access info, feel seen, and connect. You can help them to make this transition:

For news, help them discover youth-friendly, trusted sources. *For connection*, support involvement in youth groups or school communities. *For identity*, guide them to spaces where they can still feel seen and affirmed.

Your role: Be proactive in helping young people to find new avenues and places to connect, learn, and feel seen.

Keep digital skills alive

Being online isn't just about scrolling – it's where young people develop digital and critical literacy. They learn to communicate, evaluate information, and understand how digital systems work. These are life skills they'll need long after this law takes effect.

Let's remember, this 'delay' is a chance to prepare, not to disconnect. By keeping learning alive and encouraging digital thinking, we can support young people to step back into online spaces at 16 with confidence and capability.

Your role: Keep nurturing digital literacy – every conversation about online content is a chance to build future-ready skills.

LUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT!

THREE SUBWAY FUNDAY'S IN DECEMBER!

WHEN: FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH, 12TH AND 19TH
HOW: DELIVERED FRESH TO OUR SCHOOL
REGISTER, PLACE YOUR ORDER AND PAY AT:
CANTEENHUB.COM.AU/REGISTER-CUSTOMER
ORDER CUT OFF TIME: 7.00AM THE MORNING OF

ENJOY!

White Hills Primary | SUBWAY | Canteen Hub

Need help? say hello at
help@canteenhub.com

GRADE SIX
ENTERPRISE SHOWCASE

WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER

Grade 3-5 students

BRING $2 TO BUY 5 TICKETS

USE YOUR 5 TICKETS AT THE DIFFERENT STALLS

**LIMIT: $2 FOR 5 TICKETS PER STUDENT.
NO ADDITIONAL TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!**

LOOKING TO PLAY NETBALL?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR GIRLS AGED FROM 7-11 WANTING TO DEVELOP THEIR NETBALL SKILLS AS WELL AS PLAY ON A SATURDAY.

Please contact northbendigofncnetball@gmail.com for further details.

PLAY SOCCER WITH US IN 2026

Come & join Epsom Football Club! Anyone aged 4yrs+ can play! Whether you're new to soccer or a seasoned player, you'll find a safe, friendly and welcoming environment.

Our Expression of Interest form is now open

Complete our short form (link below or scan QR code) to get early access to all 2026 club info, from our Club Open Day, to registrations and training dates.

https://forms.office.com/r/5UmDcRuSmd

- Ages 4 yrs & above
- No experience necessary
- Mixed & all-girls teams available
- Non-competitive teams from Under 6 to Under 10
- Competitive teams from Under 12 to Under 16
- Youth (16-18yrs), Mens & Women's teams

Contact secretary@epsomfc.com.au or juniors@epsomfc.com.au for more information

www.epsomfc.com.au