



Purpose

At White Hills Primary School we provide students with skills to be lifelong learners. We are a community which caters for academic, physical, social and emotional needs, preparing our students to contribute productively to an increasingly globalised world.

Calendar of Events

Term 4 2020: Monday 5 October – Friday 18 December

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Week 3 | |
| Friday 23 October | AFL Grand Final Day Public Holiday |
| Week 4 | |
| Monday 26 October | Donut Day forms to go out today |
| Wednesday 28 October | Bendigo Cup Day Public Holiday |
| Friday 30 October | Pink Out of Uniform Day- Gold Coin |
| Week 5 | |
| Mon 2 – Thurs 5 Nov | Let's Get Moving Catch Up |
| Monday 2 November | Donut Day payment due 4.00pm PFG Meeting 9.30am, place TBC |
| Week 6 | |
| Monday 9 November | PFG Donut Day |
| Wednesday 11 November | Pupil Free Day |
| Friday 13 November | Last Day Parent Opinion Survey |
| Week 7 | |
| Monday 16 November | 2021 Prep Familiarisation Session |
| Wednesday 2 December | G4 Alternative Camp Activity Day |
| Friday 4 December | G2 Celebration Day Last Day online book pack orders |
| Friday 18 December | Last Day Term 4 |

Reminders

Let Us Know If You Are Moving

If your child / children will not be attending White Hills PS in 2021, please let us know now, as this information is crucial for planning.

Drink Bottles Required

With the drinking bubble taps switched off due to COVID restrictions, students are required to bring their own drink bottle to school. These can be filled at specific taps throughout the school.

As the weather warms up we are worried about students not drinking any water if they do not have a drink bottle at school.

Please ensure your child brings their own drink bottle to school every day.

PINK Out of Uniform Day

Our planned 'Out of Uniform' fundraiser for Term 3 did not occur for obvious reasons. **This has been rescheduled to Friday 30th October.**

On this day, students and staff are encouraged to come dressed in the colour pink in support of the McGrath Foundation and Kaylee and Laynee C who organised this fundraiser last year and was approved at school council. It will be a gold coin donation to come out of uniform and there will be prizes for the best dressed in each year level.

Bendigo Cup Day Holiday Wednesday 28 October

Principal's News

Hi everyone,

Reminder- Public holiday tomorrow

New School Based Family Worker

We can confirm that Anglicare are in a position to proceed with the location of an Anglicare school-based family services worker at our school in 2021. This is a great result for our families, who will benefit greatly from this additional support. Anglicare have trialled this program at Kennington PS this year with great success and we are excited about having additional support, based at our school to assist students and families.

2021 Book Packs

2021 book pack information has been released. Log on to www.edplus.com.au (APOLOGIES- this was not included on your letter containing the code) and use the code from your letter that is unique to our school and your child's year level.

All book pack orders are made online and are with Central Victorian Office Supplies (CVOS).

Book packs will need to be completed online by **Friday 4th December 2020.**

If you have any queries or need assistance please contact Sabina Riordan in the school office on 54430799 or via email at sabina.riordan@education.vic.gov.au

Collection of book packs has now changed to White Hills Primary School gym (shed) – Dates are the same:

Wednesday 20th January 2021 (10.00am - 5.00pm)

Saturday 23rd January 2021 (11.00am – 3.00pm)

2020 Parent Opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

The school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted in all state schools. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Yesterday all parents were emailed and invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent Opinion Survey will be open until Friday 13th November. If you did not receive an invitation letter or do not have an email address but would like to complete the survey, hard copies of the invitation can be collected at the office.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The survey results will be communicated to parents through annual reporting or via the school council minutes.

Parents have been emailed the link to the survey along with the school pin.

Please speak to me if you would like more information.

So far approximately 10% (42) of parents have completed the survey. We are hoping to get at least 25%.

Term Planners

Parents can access the Grade Term Planners on the school's website at <https://www.whitehillsp.vic.edu.au/page/58/Curriculum>
Term Planners outline the key focus areas in English, Maths and Integrated studies for the term.

Lost Property

We have an overflowing bundle of lost property in the office area. If your child has misplaced their uniform, it will more than likely be there! Please ask your child to check.

REPEAT MESSAGES

Pupil Free Day

A reminder that **Wednesday 11th November is a pupil free day**. Staff will be assisting with the decanting of classrooms and movement into the new rooms in Stage 1 of the building project.

Donut Day to replace Hot Cross Bun Day on Monday 9th November

Elmore Bakery have agreed to price match the hot cross bun price from earlier in the year and provide three flavoured donuts for \$1.50 each. Forms to order or replace ordered hot cross buns will be distributed on **Monday 26th October** and need to be completed and returned to school with payment by **Monday 2nd November**.

Thanks to Leah Wilson and Elmore Bakery for providing this service to the school.

As you would have read via Dojo, we will be continuing with the end of school dismissal arrangements.

- Parents/adults must avoid being on school grounds and congregating at the gates.
- Parents not to use staff car park to drop off and pick up students.
- If students are sick, they should stay at home.
- P-2 students and their siblings will be dismissed at 3:15 pm.
- Grades 3-6 will be dismissed at 3.30 pm. if they do not have a sibling in Grade P-2.
- All students who are booked into After School Care to stay in their classroom until the 3:30pm bell.
- Students to bring their own drink bottle.

Students can enter the school from three places now in Plumridge Street. The new walkway on the eastern or highway end of the school is open, along with the new entrance near the school crossing (temporary pathway at this stage) and the 'bike gate' near the bridge.

Camps Cancelled for 2020

Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel all our school camps for 2020. This includes the Grade Prep picnic, Grade 1 tea and Grade 2 sleepover. We have contacted many schools in Bendigo and most schools have done the same thing.

Teams may look at organising an alternative activity in Term 4 to replace camps. The school will refund money back to families, including deposits unless there is outstanding money owed. The school is offering the opportunity to keep the money in credit for future activities and/or next year. The only money that cannot be returned to families is CSEF money that has been allocated towards the camp. This will be credited back into your child's account. If CSEF money is not completely used by the end of the year, it is transferred to next year (including Grade 6 students).

Please email or phone Trudy in the office and let her know what you would like her to do with any funds that have been paid towards camps. Trudy.bawden@education.vic.gov.au

Please let us know if there's anything we can do to support you here at WHPS.

*Andrew Schaeche,
Princinal*

PFG News

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Monday, 2nd November at 9.30am. More details will follow on where the meeting will be held, closer to the day. *New members are always welcome, however whilst our meetings are offsite and limited at the moment, please look forward to following meetings to come and sit in then when restrictions have loosened, and see what PFG are about, and what we do around the school.*

Thankyou from all PFG members

Students of the Week – Week 2, Term 4

| CLASS | NAME | AWARDED FOR.... | CLASS | NAME | AWARDED FOR |
|-------|----------|---|---------|-----------------|--|
| PF | Lilith | Incredible reading and being so focused! | 4B | Ayarna | Constantly displaying all of the WHPS values |
| PS | Thomas | Being an enthusiastic learner in the classroom | 4E | Ashanti | Aspiring to do her best in all learning areas. |
| PR | Emmi | Always being thoughtful and kind | 4CN | Cash | Being respectful, supportive and inclusive of others in the classroom |
| PM | Zanda | Always aspiring to be his best | 4R | Alex | Demonstrating strong leadership skills and helping his peers problem solve |
| 1BW | Nevaeh | Always being switched on and trying her best at all learning tasks | 5B | Taylah | Her perseverance in maths |
| 1F | Ned | Being so resilient this term and coming to school each day | 5L | Hamish | His persistence and determination in problem solving |
| 1T | Sarmad | Always aspiring to do her best in all areas of her school work | 5S | Ashton & Zavier | His persistence and enthusiasm during division learning Working hard at home even though he was sick |
| 1H | Cody | Aspiring to be his best with his reading and giving a fantastic retell | 5M | Brock | Settling into White Hills so well and being confident to answer questions in class discussions |
| 2AK | Bailey | Trying hard to write more during writing time | 6W | Dustin | Displaying resilience when learning new mathematical skills |
| 2P | Lexi | Her improvement with reading fluency | 6D | Ella | Aspiring to achieve her best in literacy this week. Her efforts in our book study of 'Mechanica' and writing of nonsense poetry were brilliant! |
| 2Y | Hunter | Stretching out her sentence when telling her opinion | 6P | Tom | Tom's efforts this week with his poetry have been outstanding and hilarious! Thanks for always willingly sharing your work! |
| 2M | Emma | Trying her best with all her learning tasks | 6MW | Detlan | His improved effort in literacy tasks this week |
| 3M | Aarron | Promptly beginning all set tasks | Sport | Peeh D | His excellent persistence during softball |
| 3J | Tayra | Always aspiring to challenge himself during maths lessons to become an even better mathematician! | Chinese | 2P 4CN | Listening attentively during teacher instruction time and actively participating in the activities this week Their enthusiasm in learning and asking lots of good questions |
| 3G | Isabel | Always challenging herself in all learning tasks | Music | P-2 1H | Producing some fantastic songs in the Song Maker section of Chrome Music Lab. Great patterns, good beats and tunes to dance to |
| 3MB | Maddison | Building her resilience in the classroom | | 5-6 5M | Greatly improved session this week using the Music Maker program. Almost all children started working on their verse and chorus for the end of year song! |
| 3D | Chelsea | Being resilient, having a go at solving problems on her own | | | |



We're excited to welcome all families back to one of our favourite times of year – Term 4. It's a great time to reflect on the growth of your child throughout the year and celebrate their great achievements. We've got some big things planned for Term 4 that we're excited to share with you in the upcoming weeks.

Your Coordinator has been busy planning experiences to help children transition back into term time by connecting with friends, engaging with fun and enriching experiences, and continuing to explore their interests while in service.

Check out what's planned for the return of your OSHC:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Monday | Loom Ban Bracelet Making |
| Tuesday | Four Corners Music Game |
| Wednesday | Paper Plane & Crane Making |
| Thursday | Dress Ups Parade |
| Friday | Animal Scratch Art |

FREE to Register.

Once registered, you'll be able to easily make and manage your bookings online via our Parent Portal.

[Register now free](#)

Enhanced safety and hygiene.

With updated policies and measures, we commit to providing a safe and hygienic environment for your children to enjoy.

Visit our blog.

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families. [Visit our blog.](#)

Parenting in challenging times



Life has a way of throwing curve balls that really test the strength and resilience of families. Personal tragedy, natural disasters and global pandemics are the types of events that challenge us all to the core, testing our emotional and social resources.

When difficulties occur children look to the adults in their lives to maintain their security and safety. When change and uncertainty reigns, kids want strong, empathetic leadership from the significant adults in their world. As a parent it can be difficult responding to a child's needs when you're trying to adjust to changes that are forced on you.

Following are some elements to consider when parenting through times of challenge, change and difficulty:

Attention

Like a television antenna your attention is tuned to pick up the strongest signal. In times of difficulty a child may not necessarily signal that they are struggling, so you may need to fine tune your attention to pick up their needs. Start to notice the small comments and subtle behavioural changes, as they may not be small at all, and can provide helpful clues to their state of mind.

Priorities

In challenging times your focus may need to shift away from schoolwork, household neatness and chores. It can move toward relationship building, maintaining wellbeing and helping each other out. Parental priorities need to shift to the immediate rather than the future, the emotional instead of the behavioural and from thriving mode to survival mode in tough times.

Permission

Children and young people often struggle to express their feelings and thoughts in the face of adversity. They look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance about how they should respond to change, loss, uncertainty and disappointment. Allow them to speak about how they are feeling. Prompt conversations through closeness and connection. Display your own vulnerability and in doing so give your kids the permission they need to express themselves in safe ways.

Collaboration

Difficult times will invariably suit a family that enjoys a collaborative, close parenting style. In collaborative families kids feel listened to and also have an ability to impact family decision making. Shared mealtimes and regular family gatherings are generally a prominent feature of collaborative families. In difficult times those families that prosper are those that value and promote close connection between siblings and parents.

Wellbeing

Child and parent wellbeing becomes paramount in times of hardship. That may mean reprioritising the importance of school and work, doing something joyful every day and practising regular wellbeing strategies such as exercise, mindfulness, deep breathing and spending time in nature. The wellbeing bucket needs to be regularly refilled during challenging times.

These five elements form the basis of a planned parent response when major difficulties occur. Be patient, be kind to yourself and be willing to reach out to the wider community for help.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.