

# SHPS Community Newsletter



Edition 1 - Week 5 Term 1, 2026

Respect Responsibility  
Learning

Welcome back to school for 2026! It is hard to believe we are already near the end of February. I trust that you all had a relaxing summer break, spending time with the people who matter to you. We are really proud of the way our students have returned to school. All classroom environments are calm and organised, and students are happy, engaged and ready to learn.

## ROAD SAFETY - SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

A reminder to parents/carers that Rec West (located on Lily Street) offers great parking and is only a short walk from the school, using the crossing on Duke Street. This is a safe way for you to drop off your children, avoiding any chance of fines and also helps to ease congestion on Hertford Road.

Using the designated crossings (on either Duke Street or Hertford Road) and parking points, sets a great example to our students about the importance of road safety. As a school community, it is important that we work together to keep our roads safe. This includes following road rules and wearing a helmet when riding a bike or a scooter. Please also be reminded that the staff carpark is out of bounds and must not be accessed by students or families, as it is unsafe. The safety of our students is our highest priority.

## SUN SMART

We are a SUNSMART school! All our students are required to wear hats in the yard for the duration of Term 1. This small act may prevent serious illness in the future. If you need an additional or new school hat, you can purchase an unbranded one from the office for \$12 (limited supply) or a branded one for \$15 from our supplier (DCS Uniforms).

<https://www.dcsuniforms.com.au/collections/sunshine-harvester-primary-school>



*We acknowledge and pay respect to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, learn and play, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

# Child Safety at SHPS

Child safety and wellbeing at Sunshine Harvester Primary School, information for families and the school community.

Sunshine Harvester Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework explains how we support and maintain child safety and wellbeing at Sunshine Harvester Primary School. It includes our:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

[Sunshine Harvester Primary School Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy \(2024\)](#)

- Child Safety Reporting and Responding Obligations Procedures

[Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures](#)

- Child Safety Code of Conduct, which outlines acceptable and unacceptable behaviours for all staff and volunteers at our school.

[Child Safety Code of Conduct 2024](#)

Our students and families are important partners in providing a child safe environment. These regular newsletter reminders are one of the ways we ensure our school community is aware of:

- our commitment to child safety, and
- how to provide feedback or raise child safety concerns.

If you have any concerns about child safety at any time, please contact Alison Farr on 9311 1234. Any child safety complaints or concerns are treated seriously. For more information about our school's complaints process, see our Complaints Policy.

[Complaints Policy](#)

We also welcome your ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Alison Farr on 9311 1234 or at

[sunshine.harvester.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:sunshine.harvester.ps@education.vic.gov.au)



# SWPBS

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support



## Bullying is never okay

Bullying can happen at home, at school or online. It is never okay and it is not a normal part of growing up. The Bully Stoppers online toolkit supports schools, parents and carers, and students to work together to help prevent and respond to bullying.

## Features of Bullying

The 3 main features of bullying are:

- the misuse of power in a relationship
- it is ongoing and repeated
- it involves behaviours that can cause harm.

	INTENTIONAL	POWER GRAB	Repeated
BULLYING	✓	✓	✓
MEAN	✓	✓	
TEASING	✓		
RUDE			

## Upstanders

*An upstander is a person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or cause, particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being bullied.*

We are proactive in preventing bullying with dedicated lessons about bullying. Regularly planned lessons called 'Cool Tools' are delivered to classes to teach, explain and demonstrate expected positive behaviours. Please note that we take bullying concerns seriously and do what is necessary to identify bullying and bullying behaviours. We have processes and protocols that we follow to find the cause of the problems.

# In the Foundation Pod

What a fantastic start to the year in Foundation. In Reading, we are practising retelling enjoyable, repetitive rhyming texts such as 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?'. In Phonics we are revising all letters and sounds using Milo Monkey & Friends. In Numeracy, we are practising saying, writing and making numbers as we celebrate each day closer to 100 Days of School!



# In the Year 1 Pod

Our Year 1 students have made a fantastic start to the year. They have settled in beautifully, learning classroom routines and developing positive learning behaviours. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm each day. We have especially enjoyed beginning to learn Auslan, and the students are already excited to share their new signs. We are looking forward to a fun and successful term of learning together.



# In the Year 2 Pod

The Year 2 students have made a fantastic start to the year! Students are settling beautifully into their new learning space and embracing the curriculum with enthusiasm and confidence. It's been wonderful to see how quickly they are adjusting and growing.

As part of our First 20 Days of Learning program, students have been revisiting previously learned concepts and expectations. This important revision time helps build strong foundations and sets everyone up for a successful year ahead.

Each day during Term 1, we celebrate a special 'Shout Out' award winner. This is a lovely opportunity for teachers to recognise students who are demonstrating our school values in their actions and choices. The children are so proud of one another, and it's a joy to celebrate their positive efforts!

Our Year 2 students have also been busy helping to organise our classroom library, carefully sorting books into their correct topics. They have shown great teamwork and responsibility in creating a welcoming and organised learning space for everyone.

We've also begun practising new routines that encourage students to take responsibility and be accountable for their learning choices. To help minimise disruptions during teaching time, our current Year 2 goal is: *"I can get a drink from my bottle at the right time."* Appropriate times include during eating time, after lunch and recess, during transitions to the table, and during independent learning. Once students successfully demonstrate this goal four times, we will celebrate together with a class reward!

We are so proud of the positive start Year 2s have made and look forward to all the wonderful learning still to come. 🌟

# In the Year 3 Pod

The Year 3 students have had a fantastic start to 2026! They've been busy getting to know their new teachers and classroom environment, and they've settled in beautifully to the expectations of senior school - especially enjoying the exciting milestone of finally being able to play on the senior playground!

In Week 3, we dived into our swimming program. All students had a blast in the pool and worked hard to strengthen their water safety skills.

We caught up with Ava from 3B to hear about her experience. "I loved being in the water - it was just so relaxing! We practised some old skills and learnt the torpedo. The games were pretty fun too!"



# In the Year 4 Pod

The Year 4 Pod has had a fantastic start to 2026! Students have settled in beautifully and have been working hard as they adjust to their new classroom environment.

To help everyone feel more at home with their new teachers and surroundings, students completed a special heart activity. They were asked to write about the things they love most, and these hearts will be displayed around the classroom for all to enjoy.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth and success ahead!

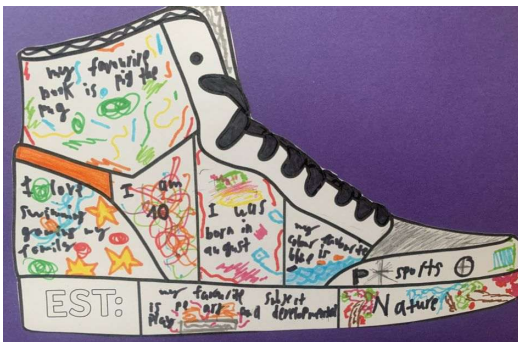


# In The Year 5 Pod

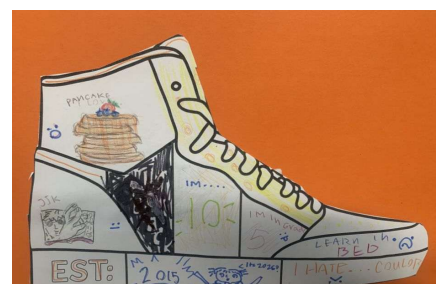
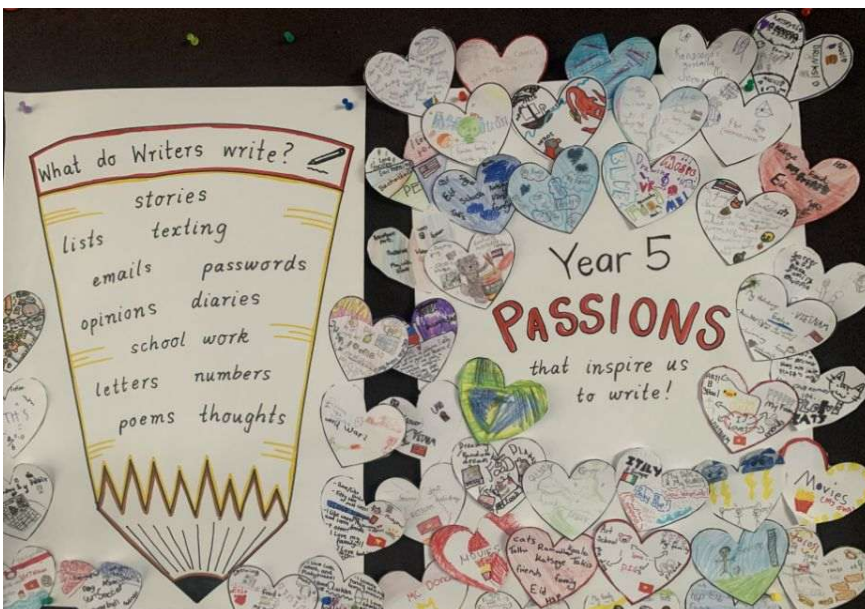
We have had a busy start to the year in the Year 5 Pod!

We have been working together to set up our classroom matrix of expectations, attended a week of swimming lessons, and have completed the First 20 Days in our core subjects of Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

Our students are settling well into senior school and we are looking forward to the year ahead!



Students created an 'all about me' sneaker and shared some topics that inspire their writing.



# In The Year 6 Pod

The Grade 6s have had a very successful start to Term 1. We have had a busy few weeks setting up our pod, developing our class contingency rewards and whole class matrix. Our school captains have done a fabulous job of leading the whole school assembly and have taken on this job with confidence and pride!

It was a mix of excitement and sportsmanship as the Year 6 students began interschool sports representing Sunshine Harvester Primary School within the Western District. Students are competing in the sports of - Hot Shots tennis, cricket, soccer and basketball.

Last week we played at Sunshine North Primary School and our students took pride in showing great sportsmanship, introducing themselves and making new friends and connections, and supporting each other.





## Congratulations to Our PBS High 5 Card Design Winners!

All artists, across year levels, put in an amazing effort with their imaginative designs for the roll out of new High Five Cards for 2026. Designs were inspired by colourful and imaginative landscapes, as well as patterns and motifs from nature. The miniature artworks demonstrated a wonderful enthusiasm for design and illustration.

A huge thank you to Mr Tom, the JSC judges and all the students who participated. To our winners, a special round of applause for your fantastic designs!

Ms Kim



# STEM



All the students from Year One to Year 6 have joined enthusiastically in STEM lessons for the start of 2026 with Mr. Paddy and Mr Ian. Our new Foundation students have also begun specialist classes and are beginning to understand what the letters in S.T.E.M. stand for (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the expectations in the STEM room. Mr Ian is working with Years 1, 3, 5 and 6 while Mr Paddy is working with Foundation, Years 2 and 4.

Foundation, Years 1, 3 and 6 are all studying chemical science by investigating different aspects of materials. Foundation are learning to describe the properties of different materials, Year 1s are learning that materials can be changed by squashing, stretching, folding and bending, Year 3s are learning how materials can be changed by heating or cooling, while the Year 6s are learning the difference between physical and chemical changes and whether changes are reversible.



Year 2s and 4s are learning about plants. The Year 2s are observing and carefully recording changes as bean seeds germinate and grow into mature plants, while the Year 4s are learning about plants and growing food safely in the school's vegetable garden.

The Year 5 students are further developing their understanding and skills at coding using the school's Lego Spike Prime robots and learning how sensors can be used to improve the robot's movement and accuracy.



# Junior School Council

All year levels have now chosen their JSC representatives for the year, and they are very excited to get started.

Students will receive their badges at assembly on Friday March 6 at 3:00pm.

We asked some of our students why they wanted to be on the JSC this year.

Selena: "I want to help my friends with learning."

Tam: "I want to make a friendship table, a new canteen menu and upgrade the gaga pit."

Anthony: "I wanted to give it a try and thought it was an exciting opportunity"

Marcus: "It's a great job to do."

# Wellbeing



Our Mental Health in Primary Schools program supports the social emotional learning of our students through structured learning, social and play groups, whole school wellbeing programs and much more.

One of the most important and enjoyable parts of my role is working with our students in social groups. Over the year, I get to work with many students across all year levels. Each social group focuses on a particular problem or skill development area, such as building friendships, reducing worry or being confident to ask for help.

Social groups usually commence mid Term 1, and each runs for approximately six weeks. Students invited to participate will receive a permission slip to take home. These groups happen in the 'Green Room', in a fun and supportive environment.

## What do our students know about mental health and wellbeing?

Well, quite a lot at our school. We have introduced the 'Mental Health Continuum' in every classroom, teaching space and office at our school. This continuum is used in our daily check ins and conversations about wellbeing. It is good to know how we are feeling and that our mental health can change a lot during the day, and what we can do about it.



I look forward to working with many more students this year.

Sue McLaren  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

# Events

We have already begun planning a big year of events in our school. Here are some that we're already looking forward to.

**22nd of March:** Harmony Day Celebration and Family event. Students, and families if they like, wear traditional dress or orange to represent Harmony Day.

**24th of April:** ANZAC Day commemoration assembly.

**3rd of June:** Reconciliation Acknowledgement event. More details will come later in the year.

**27th of August:** Literacy Day and Book Parade. A day when all students dress up and have fun.

**14th-18th of September:** Education Week. Fun activities every day of the week.

**11th of December:** Family picnic and concert. Our first school concert for many years.

More details will be sent out on Seesaw and in the newsletter, closer to each event. We hope to see all of our community enjoying these special events.