

SHPS Community Newsletter



Edition 6 - Week 9 Term 3, 2026

Respect Responsibility
Learning

Literacy Day

A huge thank-you to all of our students for participating enthusiastically in the Literacy Day activities and Book Parade held on Thursday 27th August. It was brilliant to see such effort put into costumes. The event was attended by over 100 parents, carers and community members, who made the day even more special for our students.

Sun Smart

It's time to dust off your school hats as the weather changes and the UV increases. Remember that hats must be worn during outdoor activities in Term 4.

We have a new School Strategic Plan 2026-2030

Following our school review in Term 2, a new School Strategic Plan (SSP) has been developed for the school. This plan will be in place from 2026-2030. The two goals that have been set for the school are:

Improve student learning outcomes

Improve student wellbeing outcomes

If you are interested in reading the full new SSP, you can find a copy on the school website.

Camping Program

5/6 camp notices have gone out this week. Deposits are due by the 18th September. Payment plans are available.

The Year 3/4 day camp payments are also due by the 18th September. This camp has been partly subsidised by the school to make it more accessible. Payment plans are available.

Family statements have been sent home with students informing of CSEF and SSB available balances. Please see the office for more information.

End of Term: Term 3 ends on Friday 18th September at 2:30pm. Wishing everyone a restful and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing our students back and ready to learn on Monday 5th October.



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



RESPONSIBILITY: When using digital devices, I share online safety concerns with an adult.

With school holidays approaching, classrooms are revisiting the expectations around ‘when using digital technologies’, particularly **RESPONSIBILITY**: When using digital devices, I share online safety concerns with an adult.

The legal minimum age for social media accounts in Victoria and across Australia is 16 years old. The ban took effect on 10 December 2025 following the federal Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024.

“The Victorian Government consulted on the impacts of social media on young people in October 2024...”

Parents with children under 16 years old were more likely to be worried about impacts of social media on their children.

3 in 4 parents reported using social media safety features but many weren’t confident that they could keep their child safe.”

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/safesocials>

At school, students will be reminded and learn to,

- tell a friend or family member if someone new tries to message me online
- trust my feelings about something, and if it feels wrong, speak to someone
- keep my personal information and pictures to myself and speak up if someone is asking me for these details
- help my friends if I feel unsure about their safety by telling an adult, even if I think they might be upset with me





SHPS Foundation 2027

**Do you have a child starting school
in 2027?**

**Please visit the school office or call the
school on (03) 9311 1234 to begin the
enrolment process.**

Transition sessions will begin in October.
Transition sessions are an opportunity for your
child to become familiar with school staff and the
school environment. They will receive an
enrolment pack with picture books, a school
calendar and other useful items.

Transition Session Dates + Times

Tuesday 13th October 9:20 - 10:20am

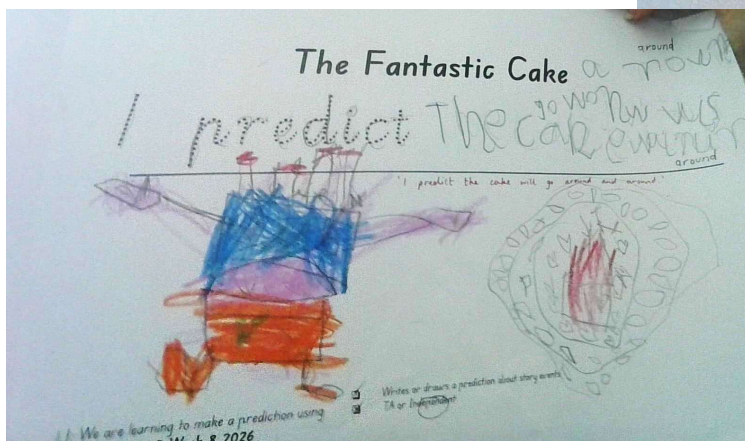
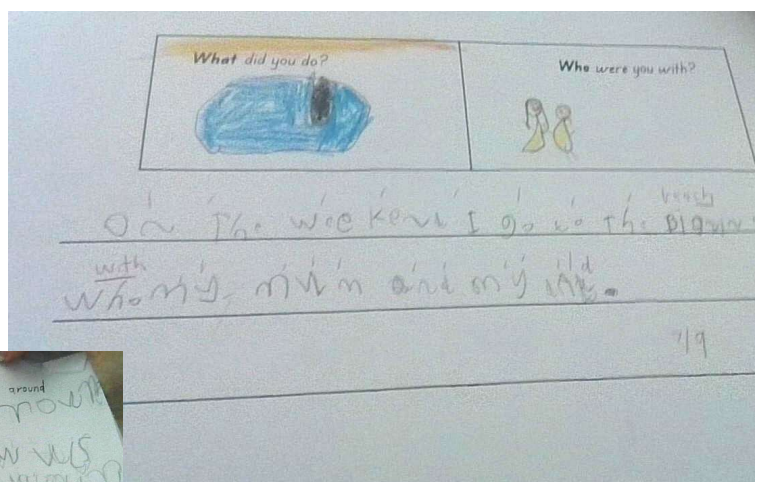
Tuesday 27th October 9:20 - 10:20am

**Tuesday 24th November 9:20 -
10:20am**

Tuesday 8th December 2:30 - 3:30pm

In the Foundation Pod

We have been exploring reading strategies such as making predictions - using images and words from the story to help us predict what might happen next. We have also started exploring recounts by writing about our weekend every Monday. It has been fantastic to see the students growing in confidence in their own writing. Book Week was absolutely fantastic and the costumes were incredible!



In the Year 1 Pod

In the Year 1 Pod, we have been busy exploring our topic of Minibeasts and Plants! The children have loved getting creative through a range of art and craft activities. We have been learning about different minibeasts and exploring the life cycles of plants, creating some wonderful artwork to show our learning.

One of our favourite activities has been planting our very own bean plants! We are very excited to watch them grow and see how big they will become by the end of term.

In Maths, we have been enjoying practical activities to explore sharing into equal groups. The children have been working together to share objects fairly, build equal groups and explain their mathematical thinking.



Our bean plants
- We are excited
to see how much
they grow!



Year 1 Mini
Beast and Plant
artwork.



Sharing equally
and working
together in
Maths

In the Year 2 Pod

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." - Dr Suess

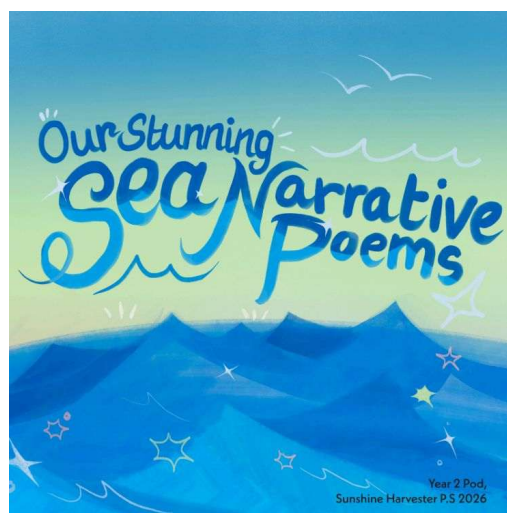
Literacy Week is always wonderfully embraced by our school and community. It was fantastic to see how many parents attended our parade.



Writers In Residence Book Launch

Our Year 2 students had the opportunity to write and illustrate their own poems alongside author and illustrator Kym Langfield. Kym works closely with the non-profit organisation *Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand* through their 'Writers in Residence' program. They've played an important role in supporting our school by providing this program to enrich students' learning experiences.

Over six weeks, students participated in workshops where they planned, drafted, refined, and illustrated their own poems. Through this experience, students were able to explore their creativity, develop their writing skills and see their ideas come to life through both words and illustrations. *Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand* organised for the students' poems and illustrations to be published in their very first book!



In the Year 3 Pod

Information Reports

This term, students have been busy researching and writing their Australian animal information reports and have been super excited to begin publishing their final pieces! Each student had the opportunity to choose their own Australian animal to research, making the writing process even more exciting and meaningful.

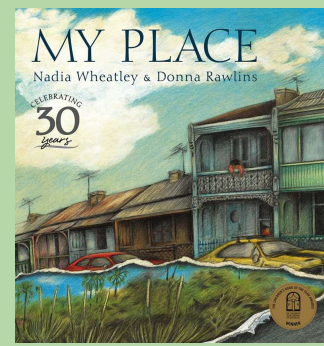
Students have learnt that information reports are based on facts rather than opinions, and have developed their research skills by gathering information and using a Lotus Diagram to organise their ideas. They have also learnt how to turn their research into their own words and write detailed body paragraphs about their animal's appearance, habitat, diet, behaviour, adaptations, life cycle and threats, as well as including an interesting fact.



A massive congratulations to our Numeracy and Writing extension students for their enthusiasm and positive attitude towards every challenge!

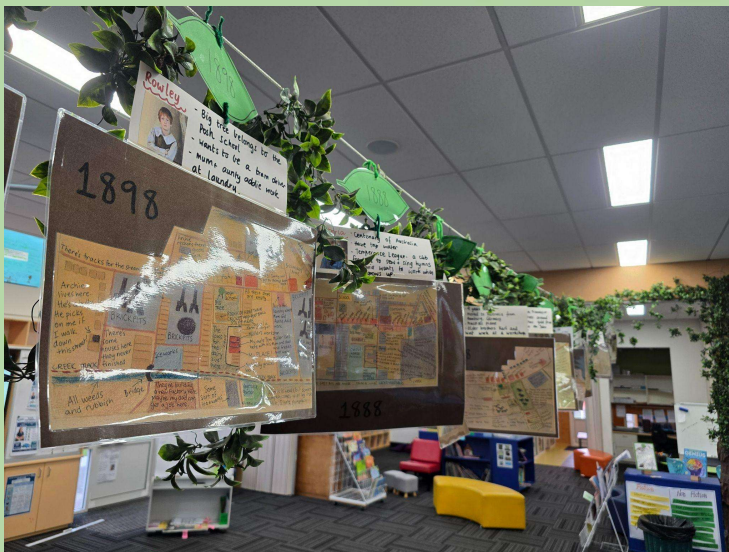


In the Year 4 Pod



This term, Year 4s have been studying the text *My Place* and watching episodes that explore the lives of its characters across different eras. Through these stories, students are developing an understanding of Australia's history by examining the experiences of the main character in each decade, gaining a unique perspective on how Australian society and the country itself have changed and developed over time.

Students were given the opportunity to reflect on their own sense of place and individuality by sharing their personal experiences and stories as part of our own class version of *My Place*.



In The Year 5 Pod

This term we have been learning about natural disasters. Students have been researching a natural disaster of their choice, and have written an information report to share what they have learnt.

We have also been learning about natural disasters in Reading, through non-fiction texts and also our class novel, *Bindi. Bindi*, which is a free verse text that follows the experience of young Bindi, who's community bands together after a drought and a bushfire on Gundungurra Country.

In week 8 we enjoyed many Book Week activities, including making some fishbowl crafts inspired by our class' favourite book week book, *Derek*.

In Term 4 we are looking forward to going on school camp to Phillip Island!



Above: Students drew a mini-version of their favourite book to add to our Book Week poster.
Right: some of our *Derek* inspired fishbowl creations.



In The Year 6 Pod

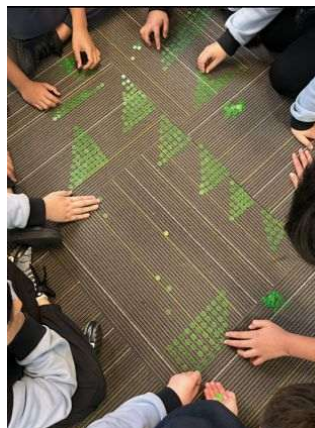
It has been a wonderful and exciting time of learning for our Grade 6 students, who have continued to demonstrate creativity, curiosity and a growing sense of independence across all areas of the curriculum.

In **Literacy**, students have been developing their memoir writing skills by reflecting on their experiences throughout primary school. They have explored significant memories, important people, memorable moments and experiences that have shaped their time at school. Students have worked hard to bring their memories to life through descriptive language, dialogue, figurative language and thoughtful reflection. It has been fantastic to see them looking back on their primary school journey and transforming these special experiences into engaging and meaningful memoirs. These pieces will become wonderful keepsakes as they prepare to take the next step into secondary school.

Our '**Our World**' learning has encouraged students to explore and celebrate culture and diversity. Students have researched their own cultural backgrounds, learning about traditions, celebrations, food, language, customs and other aspects that make their culture unique. They then compared their culture with another culture, identifying both similarities and differences, and presented their thinking through Venn diagrams. This has provided students with opportunities to appreciate the diversity within our community and develop a greater understanding and respect for the experiences and traditions of others.

In **Numeracy**, our Grade 6 students have been extending their mathematical thinking through a range of challenging and engaging concepts. They have been learning about **Cartesian planes**, developing their ability to plot and interpret coordinates, and understand how points relate to one another. Students have also been exploring **angles**, applying their knowledge to identify, measure and calculate different types of angles. In addition, they have been working with **triangular numbers**, recognising patterns and developing their understanding of multiplication and number relationships.

It has been wonderful to see our Grade 6 students embracing these learning opportunities and challenging themselves to think deeply, communicate their ideas, and work collaboratively with others. As they approach the final stages of their primary school journey, they should be incredibly proud of the wonderful progress they have made.





Our Year 1 students have been exploring the story of Birrarung (the Yarra River) and the animals that call it home. They learned about the river's currents and how creatures such as eels live and move through its waters. They created a vibrant river mural and made their very own eel puppets. There was plenty of creativity and curiosity as they brought their eels to life and had lots of fun letting them swim, wiggle and glide along the river's colourful waters!



Health & P. E.

It has been a busy and active term in Health and PE. In Health, Foundation-Year 2 students have been learning about the importance of sleep and healthy eating, while Years 3-6 have explored the benefits of exercise. Years 3 and 4 have also investigated emotional triggers and self-regulation strategies, while Years 5 and 6 have learned about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.

In PE, students have continued developing their athletic skills through events such as high jump and discus. Years 3-6 then moved into Futsal, while Foundation-Year 2 students developed their fundamental movement skills through a range of fun and engaging games.

Following our school athletics day, selected students competed against other schools at the SSVD District Athletics. Students made our school proud through their performances and behaviour, with twelve students progressing to the Division Athletics Finals, where they continued to perform exceptionally well. We will have HPE Day in Education Week with students engaging in a range of Health and PE activities throughout the day and having lots of fun on the multi-sport inflatables!



Junior School Council

The JSC worked hard to help make Literacy Day, such a special event for students, teachers and visitors to our school. Our first job was to make posters, so everyone knew what was happening. Our next job was to count the votes for SHPS's favourite children's book and picture book. It was Leah and Raille Kaite's job to let everyone at the Parade know that the votes were counted fairly.



Free Dress Day

We will be having a free dress day on the last day of term. As usual, we would like you to bring in a gold coin. The JSC voted for the money to go to the Save the Children Emergency Appeal helping children who are in crisis situations.



Save the Children



10c Bottles and Cans

We are still collecting 10c bottles and cans and would love donations from our community. Bottles and cans can be placed in our JSC 10c bins. Larger donations can come through the office. We are no longer accepting juice cartons because the machine often doesn't accept them.

Wellbeing



Wellbeing Friendship Groups

Building friendships, confidence and positive connections

In Term 4, we are again excited to be running Wellbeing Friendship Groups for selected students at school. These small-group sessions provide students with a safe, supportive and positive environment where they can develop their friendship skills, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

What are Wellbeing Friendship Groups?

The groups give students an opportunity to practise important skills that can help them feel more confident and successful when interacting with others.

Sessions may focus on:

- 🤝 Making and maintaining friendships
- 💬 Communication and listening skills
- ❤️ Understanding feelings and emotions
- ✨ Building confidence and self-esteem
- 🧠 Problem-solving and managing friendship challenges
- 💡 Learning how to express thoughts and feelings appropriately
- 🌈 Developing empathy and understanding others
- ✨ Recognising personal strengths and positive qualities

Learning through activities

The sessions will be fun, interactive and age-appropriate, using games, discussions, role-play, stories and practical activities. Students will have opportunities to practise skills in a relaxed setting in our 'Green Room', share ideas and build connections with their peers.

Events

Book Week

We celebrated book week on Thursday the 27th of August. Staff and students dressed up as their favourite book characters and we hosted a whole school parade to show off our costumes. We also enjoyed book week themed activities throughout the day, and even attended a Toon Town incursion. At the incursion we learnt how to enjoy the drawing process and drew some of our own creative characters.

In the weeks leading up to Book Week, each year level read books nominated for the 2026 Children's Book Council of Australia awards. Each year level voted for the favourite book. Our choices were Derek and Dear Broccoli. The Children's Book Council gave the awards to The Emperor's Egg and Once I was a Giant.

Education Week

Education week will be happening again in the last week of term and there will be so many exciting things for students to enjoy. Monday is Health and PE Day, Tuesday is STEM Day, Wednesday is Numeracy Day and Thursday is Arts Day. All sorts of fun activities are planned to help this make this week extra special.

Events

