



UPDATE

1st February 2024



Next Weeks Events

Monday—

Tuesday— Parent Morning Tea –9am

Wednesday— Foundation Testing

Thursday—

Friday—

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 2024

2nd— Family Picnic

13th—Parent Helper Classroom Training—9.15am

23rd—Curriculum Day—**Student free day**

March 2024

1st— 150th Celebration

11th— Labour Day Public Holiday

22nd— School Photos

28th— Last day of Term 1



Our school is 150 this year!

Keep Friday March 1st Free!!

If you have any old school memorabilia – please drop it into school so that we can copy it.

If you would like to be involved in planning this event – please let us know at the office.

Flexi School Lunch Orders

Lunch orders via the Flexi School app will be open soon for delivery on Wednesdays from Crumbs and Co.

Please be aware of cut off times to have orders in on time. Every order will get a confirmation email once it is lodged correctly.

Contents

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Classroom Helper Training

Tuesday 13th Feb at 9.15am in the Central Learning Space

If you would like to help in the classrooms, we would LOVE to have you! In order to do this, you need to have completed a training session with Mrs Egan.

All classroom helpers must have a current Working With Children Check, available online through the Department of Justice.

Family Picnic

When: Friday 2nd February

1:00pm Whole School Family Picnic

Bring lunch to share with your children in the school yard, between 1pm and 2.15pm

Information sessions time

1.10pm: Foundation O

1.20pm: 1/2 K and 1/2 B

1.30pm: 2/3A

1.40pm: 3/4 K and 3/4 H

1.50pm: 4/5D, 5/6DR and 5/6R

2.20pm- 2.45pm- Whole School activity

School Choir

School choir will be starting next week on Wednesday from 11.15 - 11.45 in the artroom.

For our first song we will be learning a special song which has been remixed by Mrs Egan to perform at our 150 birthday celebrations.

crumbs
& co.

LUNCH ORDER
DIRECT LINE

0491 640 487

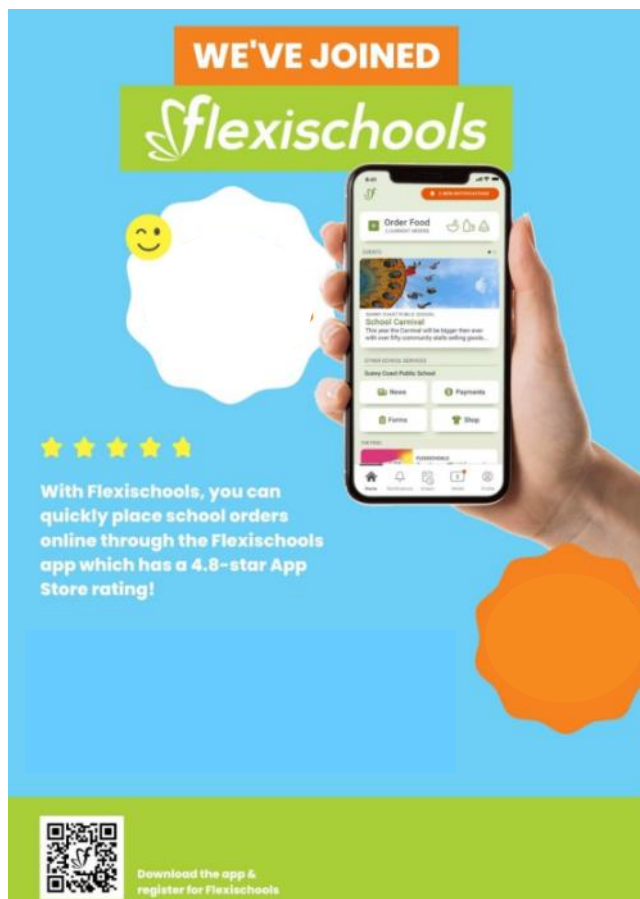
A reminder of our lunch order hotline, if you have any questions about the system, how to order, how to cancel an order if your child is sick/absent and so forth.

Happy to help anytime!

>>> Classroom Selection <<<

Please review your child's classroom when placing your order to ensure the classroom number is correct, to save confusion at delivery.

If anyone needs a hand on how to check this, give us a shout out on our lunch order hotline.



WE'VE JOINED

flexischools

With Flexischools, you can quickly place school orders online through the Flexischools app which has a 4.8-star App Store rating!

Download the app & register for Flexischools

The advertisement features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the Flexischools app interface. The app screen shows an 'Order Food' section with a map and a list of items. The background is light blue with a white cloud-like shape containing a smiley face and an orange sun-like shape at the bottom right. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner.

Principal's Report

Welcome back to UPPS!!! We are all very excited to start a new school year at UPPS!

It warmed my heart to see all the smiling faces of our students, as they walked up the path yesterday morning! Everyone has settled in well, and our new staff members have had a super start to the year!

This week all classes have been participating in our TEAM program. Students collaborate to establish class expectations and we do lots of learning about our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, and how we can use them to guide our behaviours. As part of "The Resilience Project" we focus on being grateful and on showing empathy and kindness towards others.

Each week there will be a whole school focus on an area of one of our values, along with behaviours that are expected for this. Our 'Values' awards each week will recognise students who are working hard in this area.

Our family picnic will be held tomorrow – a letter was sent to all families via Sentral, this week, with all of the details. It will be a fantastic opportunity to meet your children's teachers and say hello to other families in our school community.

We would like to welcome new staff members Sarah O'Keefe, Nicholas Hull, Jaimi Darwell, Laura DeLuca, and Kristin Romano. We also welcome back Sarah Demetrius and Mira Soufan. We are all excited about the contribution that these staff members will make to our team!

Last year in term 4, students in Grades F to 4 completed mosaics and painted rocks to make a new garden area in our school. It has all been put together and it looks AMAZING!!!! It's part of our new play area. Please call in and take a look! Thank you to Jodie Hopper, for all of the extra time and effort she contributed over the holidays, putting it all together.

Our Before and After School Program is again running! This program is being run out of our mud brick building and the feedback from our students is very positive. Details of the program are in the newsletter.

Next Tuesday at 9.00, after the bell has gone, I will be running a morning tea for all of Foundation parents and for any new parents to the school. This will be an opportunity for everyone to meet and have a chat about your children and ask any questions you may have about our school.

As we are a BARR school (Bushfire At Risk Register), the department have put additional measures in place to minimise risks on high fire danger days. Student safety is our top priority. Our main building is our 'Bushfire Safe Place'. Our school will be closed on days rated 'catastrophic' (Code Red). If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

On Friday March 1 we will be celebrating "150 Years of UPPS"! Our school will be open from 4.00 – 6.00pm for visitors, and we will be having a special ceremony at 5.00pm – with our children performing. Please save the date for this very special celebration!

Please remember that if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is important that we all work together to support our children.

Thank you everyone, for your positive energy and your support. We're all reved up and ready to soar in 2024!!!

Let's all be kind to one another.
Sue Egan

DET Mobile Phone Policy 2024

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away at the school office, during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Further information

Exceptions: For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact Sue Egan if you would like to discuss this.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

Parent support: The [Mobile phones in schools webpage](#) provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.

Sue Egan

Principal

School Council Elections

We are calling for Parent nominations for school council this year.

Nomination forms are available from the office.

Depending on the amount of nominations we receive we may need to hold an election.

Please use Classroom Doors to enter and exit the main building.

The office can be a very busy place during drop off and pick up.

We ask that all students enter and exit their classrooms through their external classroom doors and not through the office and the central learning space.

This is particularly important on days we have the Central Learning Space set up for activities like the cooking program. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hats are Compulsory!

The school Sunsmart policy states that all students will wear a broad brim hat at all times they are outside from the start of September until the end of April.

Peaked caps are NOT acceptable at any time.

Any student without a hat will have to stay undercover or in the gazebo.

Hats are available from the uniform shop for \$10



Working With Children Check

We require all school volunteers to have a current WWCC. Applications are available from the Department of Justice website.

If you are new to the school and already have a WWCC you will need to add the school to your card. This can be done online or over the phone, with the Dept of Justice, and they will advise us via mail.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE / AMBULANCE COVER

As a government public school, Upper Plenty Primary School does not provide any insurance for lost or stolen property for staff and students. We also do not provide any health insurance cover. In the event of an accident causing injury to a child we must call an ambulance to ensure the child receives proper medical attention. The fees for the trip in an ambulance will be payable by the family whose child requires care. This is in accordance with DET Policy.

Families are encouraged to research their own options to make an informed decision on what is appropriate for their circumstances.

Late Arrivals, Early Departures and Visitors

All students **must** be signed in by an **adult** if they are arriving after 9am and leaving before 3.15pm.

You can also call the office so we can make sure your child makes it to class safely, if you do not want to come into the school building.

Any student who is not signed in by an adult will receive an "unexplained absence" text via Sentral that needs to be acknowledged by their parent/guardian.

We are also more than happy to escort your child out to you in the grounds if you need to pick your child up early, please call ahead to organise this.

All Early Departures and Late Arrivals can be signed via the office.

All Visitors to the school must sign the WHITE visitors book

The book can be found on the reception desk.

Absence Notification

The DET Attendance policy requires us to contact parents any day their child is absent without explanation, ON THE DAY.

All roles will be marked right after the morning bell, any student arriving after the bell **MUST** be signed in by an adult at the office.

Parents/Guardians will need to contact the school no later than 9.30am to explain their child's absence. This can be done via the Sentral Parent App or via phone to the school office, or direct email to the school or your child's teacher. You can also send a written note in with a sibling.

All notes require a brief explanation of your child's absence as we must code it for the different reasons. A date is also essential for legal reasons.

If we have not received a notification of an absence you will be sent an SMS message, which you can reply to, or you can reply via any of the methods above.

Thanks Melissa

Privacy Policy reminder for 2024

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website [Link here](#)

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



UPPS Facebook Group Page

The UPPS Facebook group page is available to all current school community members who use Facebook. **No current students will be given access to the page.**

Do a search for Upper Plenty Primary School and the group page should show up. Please answer the entry question and read and agree to the group rules.

All members have to be approved by one of the Admin of the page, we are very careful with who we allow access, so if we can not figure out how you are linked to the school we may not allow you in. If this happens please call the school office.

Sentral Parent App

All families should be accessing the Sentral Parent App for all their information. If you are having trouble with the App please contact the office.

Thanks

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sentral.mobile>

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/sentral-for-parents/id1238744022>

UPPS is in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **North Central fire weather district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and completed maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 3** school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in North Central fire district.

What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will close on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **North Central fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by [the Sentral Parent App](#).

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.

Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.

All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.

School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by [reading our newsletters](#), [checking our website](#), by [talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan](#).

Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#)

- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. [Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.](#)

If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)



Welcome

to Upper Plenty Primary School OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program at Upper Plenty Primary School complements your child's school experience with engaging activities and opportunities to socialise with peers.

PROGRAM DETAILS

We tailor our OSHC program to support each child's individual interests and ideas. We perform a variety of planned and spontaneous activities that help children develop life skills and enhance their autonomy.

Children are actively encouraged to engage with their peers from all year levels.

Some of our activities include:

- Active play outdoors
- Board games and puzzles
- Construction and engineering
- Cooking and baking
- Music, singing and dancing
- Dramatic and imaginative play
- Homework items and reading
- Sustainability initiatives

HOURS, FEES AND CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

SESSION TYPE	HOURS	SESSION FEE	FEE AFTER MAX CCS*
Before School Care (permanent booking)	7.00am - 9.00am	\$28.00	\$5.60
Before School Care (casual booking)		\$33.00	\$6.60
After School Care (permanent booking)	3:15pm - 6:00pm	\$34.00	\$6.80
After School Care (casual booking)		\$39.00	\$7.80
Pupil Free Day (numbers pending)	7.00am - 6:00pm	\$80.00	\$16.00
School Holiday Program* (in house activity)	7:00am - 6:00pm	\$80.00	\$16.00

*MAX CSS is the out of pocket fee paid by families who qualify for the maximum Child Care Subsidy percentage (85%). The fees above are calculated at 80% subsidy to allow for the 5% withheld by Services Australia to reduce the chances of an overpayment.

Quick step-by-step guide to enrol



STEP 1 – REGISTER

www.childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au



ADD CONTACT AND CHILD



BILLING AND DECLARATIONS



MAKE A BOOKING

CONTACT US

E: upperplentyoshc@ymca.org.au

P: 0499 799 284

W: childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au



EXPLORERS BIKE RIDE 2024

Celebrating the Bicentenary
Hume and Hovell Expedition

hhride.net

Peter Harper
0458 413 177
humeandhovellride@gmail.com

Albury Ride: 620 km Werribee

Ascent: 6665 m

Ride time 33 hours

Any time during 2024

- Ride the EPIC – unsupported multi-day ride
- Ride the 8 Stages on your schedule
- Ride a single stage as a day trip

Registration is FREE
Register via the website
Commemorative certificate
A support service can be available
for stage riders or day trippers.

Stage 7 of the ride hopes to incorporate a visit to Upper Plenty to view our Hume and Hovell Historical Plaque, which is currently stored at the school.

The Shack committee is working towards putting the plaque on permanent display at the Shack in time for the ride.

Explorers Bike Ride 2024

The Explorers Bike Ride 2024 will attempt to relive the memory of the Hume and Hovell Expedition of 1824 through Victoria.

Join this bike adventure to discover the locations of the 1924 monuments and learn of the daring exploits of the explorers, Hume and Hovell.

The ride is intended to allow adventure cyclists to follow the explorers' route through the backcountry of eastern Victoria following the line of the 1924 monuments. You will relive their journey from Albury to Werribee learning about the expedition and the trials undertaken by the party of Hume and Hovell and their six convict servants: Thomas Boyd, Claude Bossawa, Henry Angel, James Fitzpatrick, William Bollard and Thomas Smith.

Ride the route in one go as a self-supported adventure, as a day trip with friends or complete the full ride Stage by Stage when time permits. Ride solo or in a small group. Start on your own schedule. There are no winners but only acknowledgement of participation. The course can be ridden throughout the bicentenary year of 2024. The course route is available online following registration. Access to the route is free.

Information can be found on the website: hhride.net
The publicity launch will be in early February while a concluding cycle event could be held in November 2024 coinciding with the time Hume and Hovell passed through Albury.



School Student
Broadband Initiative

An Australian Government Initiative
powered by nbn

To support students that do not have access to internet at home, the Australian Government has committed to providing up to 30,000 families with free nbn-powered broadband internet at home for one year.


You may be eligible for the School Student Broadband initiative (SSBI) if you:

- Have a school-aged child
- Have no active nbn connection or have not disconnected in the last 14 days
- Live in a premise that is serviced by the nbn network.



Scan the QR for more information.

To check your eligibility:

 Contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT)

 www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet

Callback and webchat functions are also available via the website.

 Translating and Interpreting Services are available.

All Things Uniform

64 HIGH STREET
Broadford. Vic. 3658

E : tracey@allthingsuniform.com.au

P : 03 5784 2276

M : 0407 781 455

You can pop in to the store during normal business hours or make an order via phone or email to the store.

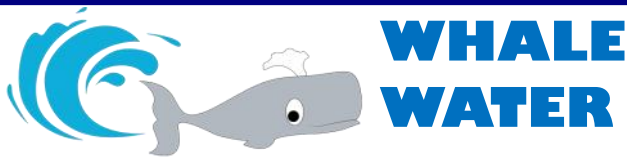
Online Ordering
now
Available

Now Available **afterpay**
For all your school wear needs



Please 'like' our Facebook page to keep updated & informed - More exciting developments to come

all things uniform



WHALE WATER



0407 096 838 John Peace

Whale Water supplies drinking water to both residential and commercial clients. Whether its to fill a house tank, swimming pool or a public event.

Competitive pricing and fast delivery

7 days a week

We service your local area !

jpeace3@bigpond.com

Upper Plenty Shack Hire

1240 Wallan Rd, Upper Plenty

Reasonable rates

Birthdays

Celebrations

Family occasions

Fully equipped hall in a beautiful setting

Childrens playground

All enquires please call Susan and Wayne
0499 907 017



TheHub 3756 is a FREE early help program offered by Kids First, Wellways, FamilyCare and Mitchell Shire Council.

Our team of Family Coaches are here to support families and children aged 0 - 12 years within the Wallan community.

What we offer

- Tailored and practical support to meet your individual needs
- 1:1 coaching to build your parenting skills and confidence
- Regular group programs where you can connect with others and grow your support network
- Help to access a variety of safe and supportive specialised services

Get in touch

- thehub3756.org.au
- 1300 253 961
- thehub3756@kidsfirstaustralia.org.au
- Wallan Community Services Hub
42/80 Bentinck Street, Wallan VIC 3756



TheHub 3756

This is a FREE Community Service.

Our team of Family Coaches are here to support families and children aged 0 - 12 years within the Wallan community.

School Bank Account details

Name: Upper Plenty Primary School Council
BSB 083001

Account Number 92 466 6216

