

# UPDATE

29th August 2024



## Next Weeks Events

Monday– **Hats are back!** /Father's day Afternoon Tea

Tuesday–

Wednesday–

Thursday– Sugarloaf District Athletics—selected Gr 3-6 students

Friday–

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### August 2024

29th– Disco

30th– Father's Day Stall

### September 2024

1st-7th—National Child Protection Week

2nd– Hats must be worn outside

2nd– Fathers Day Afternoon Tea

5th– Sugarloaf District Athletics—selected Gr 3-6 students

12th– RU OK Day—wear Yellow

20th– Parent/Carers Opinion Survey closes

20th—Last day of term 3

## Assembly tomorrow will at 2.50pm

If you are requiring to pick up your child early on a Friday you need to do so 5 minutes before assembly starts.

We will not be interrupting assembly to retrieve children.

## 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 office or the uniform shop for \$10



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## Are you leaving UPPS at the end of year?

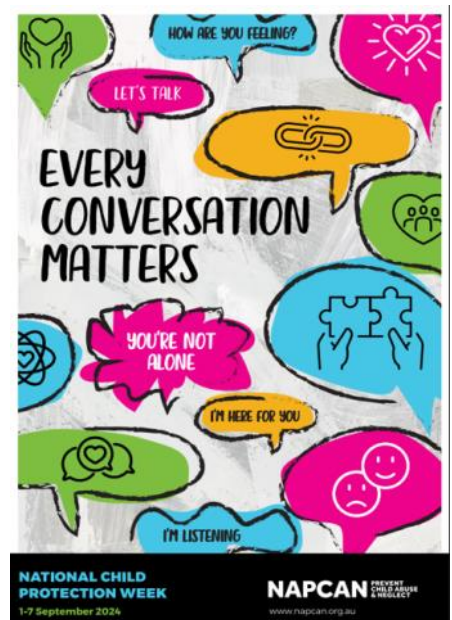
It's that time of year again when we are planning our class set ups for 2025. If you are planning to leave our school at the end of the year, can you please contact the office and let us know - we have a waiting list of families who wish to join our community. We need to finalise our class configuration for 2025. We would be very grateful if you'd let us know as soon as possible.

## Child Safety And Wellbeing Act

Victorian schools are required under the Child Safety and Wellbeing Act to ensure that they implement compulsory Child Safe Standards to protect students from harm.

Upper Plenty Primary School is committed to child safety. Articles will appear in the newsletter and on our website to promote our commitment to the Child Safety Standards. As part of National Child Protection Week (September 1-7), all students from grades Prep- 6 will engage in five Child Safe lessons. Anatomically correct names for body parts will be taught in an age-appropriate manner, as well as strategies to support child safeguarding.

If you do not wish your child to participate please contact the school.



# Weekly Awards

## Student of the Week Awards will be presented to:

**Aryan Shandilya** for the AMAZING effort you have been putting towards your learning this week. It has been wonderful to see you so focussed and motivated. Keep it up!  
**Claire Stokes** for her confidence in maths this week! Well done Claire - keep your head up, you are doing amazing!  
**Cody Barnard**—Cody we are so proud of how hard you worked during our multiplication and division unit. Keep up the good work!  
**Mason Azzopardi** for your entertaining writing ideas! Keep up the creativity.  
**Reid Azzopardi** for being motivated and bringing a positive attitude to your learning every day. Well done, Reid!  
**Samuel DiClemente** for taking pride in his learning and using his time wisely. Keep up the incredible work Samuel!  
**Ivy Hutchinson** for being patient and supportive when working with a partner. Great co-operative skills, Ivy!  
**Mia Douglas** for the consistency of effort and always producing a high standard of work. Well done Mia!!

## Values Awards will be presented to:

**Mikhael George-Jacob** for always demonstrating kindness and thinking carefully before you act. We appreciate you Mikhael!  
**Luc Elmaz** for always being empathetic and kind when speaking to others. We are so lucky to have you in our grade Luc!  
**Taylan Gorovic** for treating everyone with empathy and kindness, thank you Taylan for being a role model for our school value of 'Respect'!  
**Ivy Parker**—Thank you, Ivy, for always thinking with empathy before you speak or act.  
**Ollie Clark** for being able to show empathy and consider other people's points of views when problems occur. Keep up the good work.  
**Olivia Gannon** for showing empathy to your friend felt when they dropped some food on the ground. You were a great help, Olivia!  
**Nori Moore** for understanding how others feel and treating them with kindness. Excellent display of empathy Nori!  
**Ayla Cay** for your continued empathy and efforts to help others. Thank you!

## Students Choice Awards will be presented to:

**Jessie Mercer** for following the GaGa rules  
**Jordan Kataria** for playing nicely in the yard

## Principal's Awards will be presented to:

**Henry Rohde** for being a kind and caring friend. Thank you Henry for looking after those people around you and providing support! Well done!  
**Linc Segreto** for showing our school value of resilience by bouncing back when you were feeling sad, and then making the very most of your day, and sharing your positive experiences with others. Well done Linc - you're a superstar!  
**Josiah Stokes** for showing perseverance at play times in the gaga pit and for learning good sportsmanship by being fair in games and going out straight away. Well done Josiah - super effort!!

# Principal's Report

Thank you to our students who have been displaying outstanding respect, responsibility and resilience in our playground. It has been wonderful to see the variety of games being played and the inclusiveness of these. We have gaga, volleyball, football, basketball, soccer, and gang up tiggly – all being played fairly – top stuff!!!

This week our staff have spent time analysing our 'Student Attitudes to School' data. We have received very positive endorsement from our students, particularly in the areas of 'Effective Teaching Practice', 'Learner Characteristics and Disposition', 'School Safety', and 'Teacher Student Relationships'. We believe that the practices we have put in place are consistent across the school and we are continually looking for areas of improvement to target. Thank you to all of our staff for their dedication, professionalism, care and consistency, which has enabled our students to feel safe and supported in their learning!

Congratulations to Bella C for her win at the National Boxing Championships in Queensland last week. We are so proud of her achievement -the dedication and hard work she put into her sport has certainly been rewarded. Well done Bella!



Last week we had a spectacular day for our dress up for book week. Thank you to all of our students and staff who participated. What fun we had!!!

It's almost Disco time!!!! Our whole school disco will be running on Thursday 29th August in the central space of our main building.

- Students in grades F – 2: 5.30 – 6.30
  - Students in grades 3 – 6: 6.30 – 7.30
- It will be \$5 entry and drinks will be for sale for \$2 and lolly bags for \$1. This is a fundraiser for our school.

We are currently putting together our book lists for 2024. We use student feedback to plan our programs each year. Our students have really enjoyed our novel studies, and as a result, we have included a book study as part of our literature program, each term, next year, for students in grades 3 to 6. The cost of these novels will be included on your child's booklist. This enables them to have their own copy of the novel, rather than excerpts seen on the screen.

2025 is getting closer! We are planning classes now. If your children will not be attending UPPS next year, please let us know, as we have several students on our waiting list.

As always, if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me. We are here to work together with you, to support your children.

Please be kind!  
Sue



## A WINDOW INTO 3/4H

### Core Knowledge

In Core Knowledge, we have just finished our topic of the Coorong National Park in SA. We are now jetsetting into the stars with astronomy!

### Literacy

For our literacy, we have just started writing our own space story following Formula for Frames.

### Maths

In maths, we are working on utilising decimals in our measurement of length, mass and capacity. This has led to some interesting experiments!

## School Saving Bonus

Dear parents and carers,

In Term 4, 2024, families with a child enrolled in a government school from Prep to Year 12 in 2025 will receive the one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

The \$400 School Saving Bonus provides families with support for education-related costs, such as school activities and/or school uniforms and textbooks.

The School Saving Bonus is not available for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

## Actions for parents and carers

**Before 18 October 2024**, the Department of Education is asking parents and carers to:

**Complete enrolment:** If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).

**Check your contact information:** Ensure your email address and phone number is up to date with us. You can check this information by contacting us directly.

We need to ensure your contact information is up to date as the Department of Education will email you twice:

- in October, to verify your email address
- in November, with your \$400 School Saving Bonus.

Please check your junk mail regularly to make sure you do not miss an important email.

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus, download the [School Saving Bonus Information sheet for government school parents and carers](#) or visit [vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus](http://vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus).

## School Saving Bonus

### Information for government school parents and carers

#### About the School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

## Who receives the School Saving Bonus

*The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.*

## Actions for parents and carers

Parents and carers of children who meet the School Saving Bonus eligibility above are required to do the following by **Friday 18 October 2024**:

- **Complete enrolment**

If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025, please complete enrolment. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).

- **Check your contact information**

Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school. You can check this information by contacting your school directly.

## Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus. The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to access it via an online system.

You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system.

The bonus can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

The bonus can be used at your school's approved textbook or uniform suppliers either in-store or online, or through State Schools' Relief. The list of suppliers may include a school uniform or bookshop. Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until [30 June 2025](#). It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

## Families with more than one eligible child

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

## More information

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit [vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus](http://vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus). Translated information will also be available on the School Saving Bonus website in the next few weeks.

## 2024 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

**WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!**

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open online from **Monday 29 July to Friday 20 September 2024**.

All families are invited to participate in the survey. We need to get a survey return of at least 40 families to make the data useful.

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

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Resources are also available in additional languages to assist parents / caregivers / guardians who speak a language other than English at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school directly for survey guides in your language.

More information and the link to the survey came home via Sentral on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Last year we used the survey results to support our future planning.

Please contact the office if you would like more information.

**Survey Extended until end of term**

# School-wide Positive Behaviour

Before you speak:

**THINK**

**T** - Is it True?

**H** - Is it Helpful?

**I** - Is it Inspiring?

**N** - Is it Necessary?

**K** - Is it Kind?

## This week's SWPBS Value is Respect.

This week's SWPBS Value is Respect. Students have been discussing what are helpful/kind and unhelpful/hurtful comments when talking with your friends and classmates. Students are learning the importance of how unhelpful comments can be hurtful at times, even when we don't intend it to be.

Taking the time to pause and reflect on what you are about to say is something that we can continually benefit from practising. By taking a few seconds to think about what you are going to say, it is allowing you to reflect on your comment and process whether the comment will be helpful in the conversation.

Students have been practising this skill in the classroom by role playing out scenarios involving conversations with 'unhelpful comments', and changing them into helpful comments. You can help support your child at home with this skill when discussing or reflecting on their day, by talking about what positive or helpful conversations they had today with their peers?

## Parents using the staff carpark

The car park in the school grounds is for staff, deliveries, picking up sick children and visitors to the school.

We ask that all parents use the Shack car park for pickup and drop off. **Unless you have asked the office for permission, no parent should be using the staff car park unless you are picking up an ill child.**

Please make sure that all adults dropping off or picking up your children are aware that the staff car park is not to be used. **No student should be walking through the staff car park without an adult.**

Parking on the side of Clarkes road is illegal and sign posted as such.

If you have exceptional circumstances and require the use of the staff car park please contact the office so we can arrange it.

Parents using the OOSH/Care can use the staff car park before and after school hours.

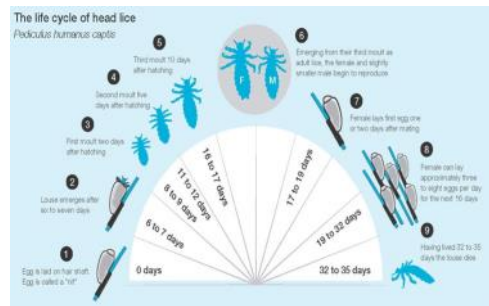
**Supervision of students starts at 8.45am and students should not be dropped at school prior to this. If you require your child to be at school prior to this time, you may need to use the YMCA Before School care program.**

Thank you.

## Headlice

We have had several cases of headlice reported over the past few weeks. To contain the spread of the lice it is important that we are all very vigilant. We ask that you all check your child's hair regularly. If you detect eggs or lice please keep your child home until you have treated them and inform the school. **Please read the following information and recommendations.**

- Concentrate on the head—there is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or classroom.
- No treatment kills all of the eggs** so treatment must involve **two** applications seven days apart. **The best practice is to physically remove all eggs after treatment.**
- If you are using lotions, apply the product to dry hair.
- It is important to inspect all family members if one member has nits or lice.
- Only the pillowcase requires specific laundering; either wash it in hot water or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting.
- There is no product available that prevents head lice
- Tying long hair back can help prevent the spread of head lice
- Combs with long, rounded stainless steel teeth positioned very close together have been shown to be the most effective, however, any head lice comb can be used.



## 2024 Emergency Management Plan

Dear families,

We want to let you know about our school's emergency management plan. Our school plans for a range of hazards, such as bushfire, severe weather, medical emergencies, building fires, intruders, etc. We develop specific response procedures to address these risks.

We also conduct drills regularly, ensuring that our core procedures of on-site and off-site evacuation, sheltering-in-place, and lockdown/lockouts are well-rehearsed and understood by staff and students.

If we enact our emergency management plan, we will notify you by [Sentral](#) with updates on our actions. If there is anything we need you to do, we will let you know.

During emergencies, we will work with emergency services and the Department of Education for safety advice and support. Please know that keeping our students and staff safe is our top priority.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Egan Principal

## School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

**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**.



Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by the Sentral Parent App.

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.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and completed the DET advised vegetation works in our school grounds, and maintenance on our buildings

### ***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 if our school is closed due to 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.

Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

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>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***What is the department's policy?***

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

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.

The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

#### ***Who issues fire danger forecasts?***

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.

**Australian Plants Society  
Mitchell Group Inc**



**Annual Spring  
Plant Expo & Sale**  
Saturday 7 September  
9.00am—3.00pm

**Wallan Multi-purpose  
Community Centre**  
42 Bentinck St, Wallan

**Native Plant Floral Displays**  
**Australian Native Plant Sales**  
**Gardening & Plant Book Sales**

**FREE ENTRY**

Website:- [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)

Contact:- [aps.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:aps.mitchell@gmail.com)



## 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>

## 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.

The Boilerhouse Theatre Company Presents



September 6th – 21st 2024

Building 22, Jacksons Hill, Sunbury



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

Available on [Trybooking.com](http://Trybooking.com)  
or via the QR Code

Based on Roald Dahl's Original Novel  
Adapted for the Stage by David Wood  
By Arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical  
On Behalf of Samuel French  
A Concord Theatricals Company



## Excursion Forms and Payments

Could all excursion forms please be returned whether your child is attending or not. If your child is not attending an excursion, please cross the form and mark as not attending, and the reason why. We spend a great amount of time chasing non returned and late excursion forms. Please try to get forms in as soon as possible after receiving them. And remember no child can attend an excursion unless we have signed forms. Thanks

**All excursion forms should be returned to your child's teacher or directly to the office.**

Any money sent to the office, needs to be clearly labelled and sealed in an envelope or zip lock bag with the permission form or order form the payment is for.

Please keep permission forms and FAF forms separate.



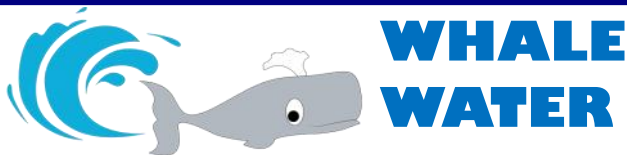
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# Upper Plenty Shack Hire

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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](http://thehub3756.org.au)
- 1300 253 961
- [thehub3756@kidsfirstaustralia.org.au](mailto:thehub3756@kidsfirstaustralia.org.au)
- Wallan Community Services Hub  
42/80 Bentinck Street, Wallan VIC 3756

[TheHub 3756](http://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

