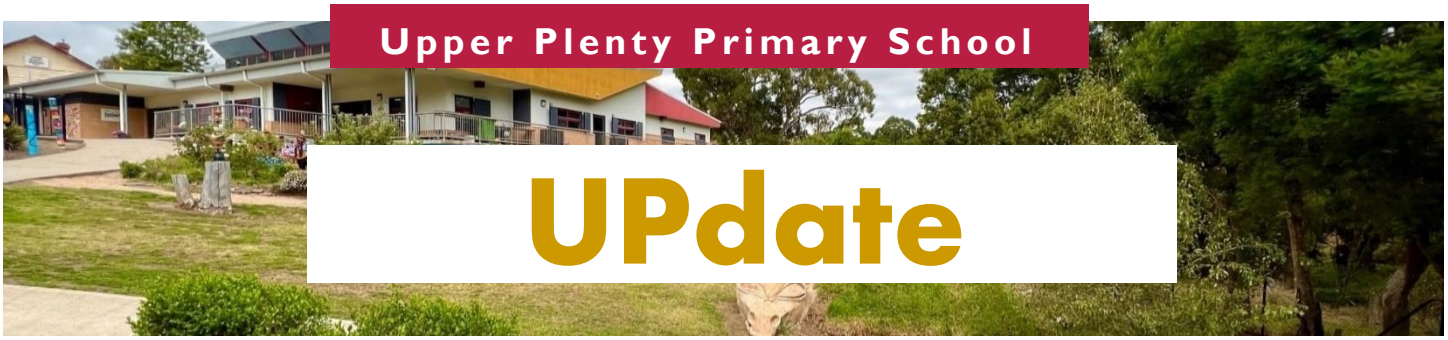


Upper Plenty Primary School

UPdate

Trudy Whewell, Principal

5th November 2026

5783 1358 / www.upper-plenty-ps.vic.edu.au

Dates to Remember

November 2026

5-6th – 5/6 City Experience
11th – Landcare Incursion
17th- Professional Practice day – No Student classes
19th- Yr 1/2 Fun Night
20th - Colour Run
24/26th – Teeth on Wheels

December 2026

1st- Parent Helper Morning Tea
2nd- 5/6 Swimming Nagambie
3rd- Yr 3/4 State Final Hooptime- selected students
4th- BER Market Day
7/9/10/11/14th – F-2 Swimming
8th- State Wide Transition Day
10th- Christmas Concert 5.30-7pm
14th- Grade 6 Graduation
16th- Class parties and KK
17th- 5/6 Funfields Excursion
18th- Last Day of Term 4

Assembly

2.45pm in the Central Learning Space. – All Welcome

If you need to pick your child up early it must be before assembly starts.

🎉 Get ready to run wild with Monty!

It's here - Monty the Monstar Fun Run!

Jump in now! Set up your child's **My Profile Page** – it's quick, easy and super fun.

We also have some amazing bonuses up for grabs:

- Every student gets rainbow sunglasses and a headband!
- The class with the most profiles at the end of week one will win an ice block party!
- Receive donations on four different days and go into the draw to Slime a teacher!
- Raise $20 and go into the draw to win a tuckshop voucher!
- Together, we can achieve amazing results for our school!



Tuesday 17th November – Professional Practice Day

No student classes on this day.

Their Care will be running a program for families requiring the service. Please book in ASAP via Their Care's website.

Principal's Report

Children's Week

Last week we celebrated Children's Week with a variety of activities recognising the talents, skills and individuality of our students, while reminding them just how amazing they all are!

We kicked off the week with our Crazy Hair, Socks or Clothes Day, organised by our JSC leaders. It was a very successful start to the week, with students getting creative with cupcakes in their hair, fantastic designs using hair ties and wigs, crazy and mismatched socks, and some very unusual outfits! Students also generously made a gold coin donation, with all money going towards The Royal Children's Hospital. In total, we raised $168. A big thank you to our JSC leaders for organising and promoting this event.

We continued the celebrations with our African Drumming Incursion, followed by our annual school disco, which had a Halloween and disco theme and was organised and run by our Year 6 leaders. Students from Foundation to Year 2 enjoyed their disco first, followed by our Year 3–6 students. The costumes were fantastic, and everyone enjoyed the games, prizes and, of course, the dancing! Our Year 6 leaders put together a great playlist that certainly brought the dance floor to life. They also enjoyed singing loudly into the microphone and helping to create a fantastic party atmosphere! A huge thank you to our Year 6 leaders for all their hard work and organisation in preparing and running this event.

Our Student vs Staff Table Tennis Competition throughout the week was also a huge hit! Many students came along to watch each match and then hoped there would be enough time before the bell to challenge a teacher or friend and have a go themselves. While the staff took out the victory, it was a fun week filled with plenty of friendly competition and lots of laughs. A special thank you to Mitch, our Sports Leader, for his efforts each day in setting up, organising the matches and keeping score.

What a fantastic week of celebrations! It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved, having fun and celebrating the many things that make our school community so special.

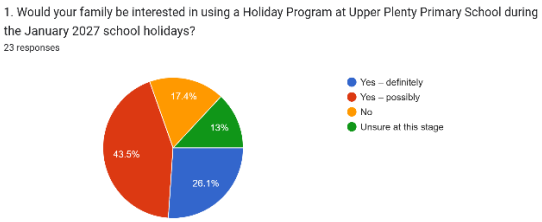
World Teacher's Day

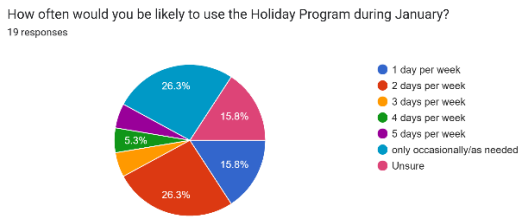
Last Friday was World Teacher's Day. The theme was *"Shine a light on teachers."* We spent the day with a special morning tea at recess and a special assembly to finish the day. As I said to the teachers, teaching is an extraordinary commitment that requires knowledge, expertise, creativity and immense resilience. These days are opportunity to thank all of our teachers for the hard work and dedication that they bring to their roles every day. The care, patience and encouragement each of our teachers show each of our students, along with the professionalism and passion they bring to their classrooms and learning spaces, make such a difference.

I am incredibly honoured to work alongside such a dedicated and caring team.

After School Care Survey

Thank you to the 23 families who took the time to complete our survey regarding the possibility of having a school holiday program operating at UPPS.





A number of families indicated that they would be interested in using this service for at least 1–2 days per week. This feedback is very valuable and will be presented at my next meeting with TheirCare.

Once I have further information and an outcome from this meeting, I will communicate this back to families. Thank you again for taking the time to provide your feedback and help us explore this opportunity for our school community.

School Closure Day

Tuesday 17 November will be a Professional Practice Day for staff, and the school will be closed to students. Students will not be required to attend school on this day. TheirCare will be operating as usual for families who require care for their children. If you need to book your child into TheirCare, please ensure you make your booking as soon as possible.

Students Leaving UPPS

If your child or children will not be returning to UPPS next year, perhaps due to a move or a change of school, could you please let me know by email or contact the school office as soon as possible. Next week, we will begin the process of organising our 2027 class groups. Having this information early is important as we work to create balanced classes and ensure, where possible, that students are placed with friends. If we are unaware that a student is leaving and have already finalised our classes, making changes afterwards can be difficult and may impact friendship groupings for other students.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us make this process as smooth as possible.

Rest of Year

Please take a moment to check the diary dates included in this newsletter, as most of our remaining events and important dates for the year are listed. We encourage families to add these dates to their calendars, so you do not miss anything happening at UPPS!

Trudy







African Drumming Workshop: Such a great experience!
Last Thursday, our students participated in a fantastic African drumming workshop, filled with rhythm, energy, laughter and lots of enthusiasm! It was wonderful to see students so engaged, embracing the opportunity to learn new skills and experience music from another culture.
We were so proud of the way our students participated throughout the workshop, demonstrating respect, curiosity and a willingness to give everything a go! What an incredible day at UPPS!



First Nations Club: Native River Mint Ice Cream!
Our First Nations Club had a great time making native river mint ice cream! Students enjoyed exploring this native bushfood ingredient straight from our garden, and learning about its unique flavour while working together to create a delicious treat.
It was fantastic to see how cooperative, helpful and enthusiastic everyone was throughout the activity. Students demonstrated wonderful teamwork, taking turns, supporting one another and helping with the preparation and clean-





UPPS Maths Challenge!
Can you solve this week's maths mystery?
There are 6 classrooms at UPPS. Each classroom has 24 students. Every student receives 3 raffle tickets.
How many raffle tickets are handed out altogether?
Think you've solved the mystery? Bring your answer (and your working out!) to the office. If you're correct, you'll receive a raffle ticket to go into our exciting prize draw!
Good luck, mathematicians!

UPPER PLENTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The staff, parents, and community of Upper Plenty Primary School are committed to providing a nurturing, friendly environment that inspires successful and confident lifelong learners.

Upper Plenty Primary School
10 Clarkes Road, Upper Plenty 3756
PO BOX 496
Telephone: 03 57 831 358
Email: upper.plenty.ps@education.vic.gov.au

26th October 2026

Dear Parents

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Upper Plenty Primary School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Upper Plenty Primary School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Gail O'Donnell, Business Manager, on phone 0357831358 or by email gail.odonnell@education.vic.gov.au.

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 03 57831358. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Trudy Whewell
Principal

Chris Tanner
School Council President

UPPER PLENTY PRIMARY SCHOOL 2027 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.		$130

Extra-curricular items and activities

Upper Plenty Primary School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events like formals.

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
Camps	**To be confirmed**	**TBD**	
Excursions	**To be confirmed**	**TBD**	

Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities			

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

[Upper Plenty Primary School has an arrangement with the following supplier for the materials that you can buy: COS

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please go to: https://www.cos.net.au

Financial help for families

Upper Plenty Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms -** delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:

Gail O'Donnell

Business Manager
Ph: 03 5783 1358 | Email: gail.odonnell@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Our preferred method of payment for Voluntary Contributions is via Bank transfer

Bank details

Name: Upper Plenty Primary School
BSB 083 001
Account 92 466 6216

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- **decide when to make each contribution**
- **choose the amount of each contribution.**

If you would like to pay for extra-curricular items and activities through instalments, you are welcomed to at any time.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information.]

UPPER PLENTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's Parent Contributions policy.

WHERE
The Shack
1240 Wallan-Whittlesea Rd, Upper Plenty VIC

SATURDAY
21 November 2026
9:30am – 3:30pm · Free entry · Everyone is welcome



Local people. Local food. A stronger future. — Upper Plenty, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung country

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY · UPPER PLENTY

FREE ENTRY · PRODUCE STALLS · GUEST SPEAKERS

MEET THE FARMER

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY
Grow you good thing!

Join the **Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group** and the Upper Plenty community at **The Shack** for a day celebrating local food, farming and the people who produce it. Part of **AgDay**, the National Farmers' Federation's national celebration of Australian agriculture.

WHAT'S ON THE DAY

1. **Local produce stalls**
   Fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, lamb, beef, pork, heritage poultry and other regional food — straight from the people who grew and raised it
2. **Good food & a cooking demonstration**
   Freshly prepared food, homemade cakes, tea and coffee, a live cooking demonstration with a chef — plus a hamper of local produce to be won
3. **Two speaker panels**
   Local farmers and industry experts, MC'd by agriculture educator and regenerative farmer Amanda McClaren — see the panel topics below
4. **For everyone**
   Keen cooks, curious families, small landholders, or anyone who wants to know where their food comes from

REGISTER

SCAN TO REGISTER
events.humanitix.com/upper-plenty-agday

Food cooked on site
Cakes, tea and coffee all day

Hamper prize
Filled with local produce

Free entry, all welcome
Register online — bring cash for stalls

SCHEDULE

9:30 am	Doors open — produce stalls, coffee and cakes
11:00 am	**Speaker panel** — MC Amanda McClaren
12:00 pm	Cooking demonstration with a chef
2:00 pm	**Speaker panel** — MC Amanda McClaren
3:00 pm	Hamper drawn
3:30 pm	Finish

ON THE PANEL

Two panels of local farmers and industry experts, both MC'd by **Amanda McClaren**, agriculture educator and regenerative farmer. Between them they cover:

Regenerative farming
How farming with the land is changing our landscapes

Agricultural education
Pathways in, for new and small-scale producers

Food production
What it really takes to put food on the table

Upper Plenty Mechanics Institute Hall — *Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung country*

This inaugural event aims to strengthen connections between local farmers and the wider community, while highlighting the vital role agriculture plays in our region. **Come and be part of the conversation.**

For more information or to support the event: **Paul Gruigan** · mountcleves@bigpond.com · 0488 905 757

WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL · WARIALDA BELTED GALLOWAY BEEF · VICTORIAN FARMERS' MARKETS ASSOCIATION · OPEN FOOD NETWORK AUSTRALIA · GOULBURN VALLEY WATER

COMMUNITY · FARMS · FOOD · HEALTHY LANDSCAPES · BRIGHTER FUTURES

UPPER PLENTY MERRI CATCHMENTS LANDCARE GROUP

upmclg.org.au/events

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

http://upps.allthingsuniform.getworkgear.com/





Student Late Arrivals and Early Departures

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

Any student who is not signed in by an adult at the office could receive an "unexplained absence" SMS message.

All Early Departures and Late Arrivals should be communicated to the office directly.

All Visitors to the school must sign the **WHITE** visitors book

The book can be found on the reception desk

Hats are Back!

The school Sunsmart policy states that all students will wear a broad brim hat at all times they are outside from the **mid August 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

Parents using the Staff Car park

This is a reminder that no parent/carer should be using the staff car park during normal drop off and pick up unless they have discussed an exceptional need with the office.

Every family should be parking in the Shack car park and no student should be walking through the staff car park to access the school grounds.

Parking in Clarkes Road is illegal.

Families accessing before and after school care can use the staff car park outside the normal school hours.

Please make sure to let anyone doing drop off or pick up that they need to park in the Shack car park.

Crumbs and Co Lunch Orders – Wednesday's and Friday's

crumbs & co.
0491 640 487

Flexischools

Our school is online with Flexischools

Step 1

Register with Flexischools

1. Download the Flexischools app and click **"Sign Up."**
2. Enter your email to **create an account.**
3. Go to your inbox and click the link to **verify your email.**
4. Follow the prompts to complete your registration.



Step 2

Enter your child's details

1. In the navigation bar, add your student(s) under **"Profile" > "Students" > "Add new."**
2. **Add your child's details** to the new student profile.



Step 3

Place an order

1. On the home page, click the **"Order food" button.**
2. **Select the student** you would like to order for. Choose a **service** and **order date.**
3. **Select the items you would like to order**
4. Click **"View order"** and select **"Checkout and pay"** to **place your order.**



Crumbs & Co provide lunch orders to the students and staff here EVERY WEDNESDAY.

Information on Flexischools the ordering platform used to help with getting setup is included.

Don't forget to update your students class name ready for ordering.

ORDERS TO BE PLACED BY 7AM ON DAY OF DELIVERY.

