

UPdate

Trudy Whewell, Principal

8th October 2026

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Dates to Remember

October 2026

6-14th -Somers Camp – selected 5/6 students

7-9th - Year 3/4 Camp – Sovereign Hill

9th - Lawn Bowls Practice – selected students

19th - 5/6 Hooptime- selected students

21st - Student Leaders Excursions

22nd - 3/4 Hooptime- selected students

22nd -F-2 Cosmodome Incursion

22nd - Softball – Selected students

29th - African Drumming Incursion

November 2026

2nd - Student Free Day

3rd - Melbourne Cup Public holiday

5-6th – 5/6 City Experience

11th – Landcare Incursion

20th - Colour Run

24/26th – Teeth on Wheels

December 2026

2nd - 5/6 Swimming Nagambie

7/9/10/11/14th – F-2 Swimming

8th - State Wide Transition Day

10th - Christmas Concert – TBC

14th - Grade 6 Graduation

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.

Compass Transition Information

From term 4, we will be transitioning to using Compass as our school communication platform. An email came home to all parents and carers in the last week of term 3, with instructions on how to access the system for parents.

Access to Sentral will still be active during term 4, but all outgoing communication will be coming from Compass. We would also appreciate if all attendance notifications from parents come through Compass.

An instruction booklet is attached to the welcome post in the news feed in Compass, which shows all the features available. We will not be using all the features straight away, but we will increase the scope of usage during term 4 2026 and term 1 2027.

If you did not receive an email from Compass at the end of last term, please email the school email from your current email address, so we can make sure we have your details correct.

Parents can see more information at the following link [Compass For Parents | Compass Education AU](#)

Before we lose access to Sentral at the end of term 4, we highly encourage you to download all of your child's academic reports to your personal devices.

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.

Awards

Student of the Week

Foundation

Oliver L for a great positive start to Term 4. Keep up the great work in the classroom!

Year 1/2 H

Kieran H for his enthusiasm and eagerness to learn about our new topic, Astronomy. Well done, Kieran!

Year 1/2 K

Ellie H for welcoming a new student to our grade and inviting her to play. Super kind, Ellie!

Year 1/2 M

Jett KB for working hard and improving your hand writing.

Year 4/5 A

Claire S for showing kindness, enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards her learning, while always trying her best and supporting those around her.

Year 5/6 PR

Tommy F for his outstanding effort, focus and dedication to all of our reading and writing activities. Well done, Tommy.

Year 5/6 R

Bede K for walking into school with a smile on your face and giving your best effort. Well Done Bede!

Principal's Award

Rosie P for a great start at her new school this term! Welcome to Upper Plenty PS!

Values

Foundation

Jaxon N for showing all of our school values both inside and outside the classroom to kick off term 4. Keep it up Jaxon!

Year 1/2 H

Ruby K for consistently lining up in the correct order each day when the bell rings. Great work, Ruby!

Year 1/2 K

Rosie P for learning all the routines for her new class really well. Super job, Rosie!

Year 1/2 M

Elyse H for always following classroom procedures.

Year 4/5 A

Kamali S for consistently following our classroom expectations and routines, being a responsible and positive role model who is always willing to help and support others.

Year 5/6 PR

Sara Z for consistently following our class routines and procedures. Well done, Sara.

Year 5/6 R

Alessia Y-K for always following our rules and procedures and going beyond expectations to help put a smile on our faces. Thank you Alessia

Student Choice Award

Aziiah J for leaving the basketball court when the bell went.

Miss Humphreys for handing in her awards early

UPPS Legend will be presented to:

Addley T, Alex T, Aria P, Ava A, Elyse H, Hunter F, Ezra A, Jett KB, Kevin S, Monique R, Noah K, Charlotte R, Brycen L

Principal's Report

Welcome Back

I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable break, and that you were able to make the most of the sunshine we started to see towards the end of the holidays.

Over the holidays, we had some repairs completed to our septic irrigation system on the oval. The middle section of the grass was removed, new irrigation was installed, and new turf has been laid. As a result, our oval will be out of use for the first two weeks of this term while the new turf establishes and settles.

Fundraising Update

At the end of last term, we held a couple of very successful fundraising events to support our school.

Our out of school uniform sports dress-up day and Bakers Delight lunch raised an impressive \$450. A special thank you to our FAF parents for all their organisation and support in making the lunch day such a success.

Over the holidays, I purchased two giant Connect Four sets with the funds raised. The students have already been enjoying playing with them during recess and lunch, and they have been a fantastic addition to our school yard.

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising activities. Your generosity helps us provide additional resources and opportunities for our students to enjoy at school.

Talent Show

On the last day of Term 3, we held our very first UPs Got Talent Show Grand Finale! It was a fantastic afternoon as we watched our finalists take to the stage and proudly showcase their amazing talents.

We enjoyed a wonderful variety of performances, including magic, dancing, music, jokes, puppetry, singing and gymnastics. It was fantastic to see the confidence, courage and enthusiasm our students demonstrated throughout the event.

A very big well done to all of our finalists, as well as every student who auditioned throughout the term. With more than 20 auditions taking place, it was wonderful to see so many of our students willing to step outside their comfort zones and participate.

A special thank you to our judges on the day and to our school leaders, who generously gave up their recess times throughout the experience to assist with setting up, judging and hosting the event. Your support helped make the experience so successful for everyone involved.

Congratulations to our winners:

 **1st Place – Ivy and Layne**

 **2nd Place – Addley**

 **3rd Place – Reid**

We are already looking forward to seeing what talents our students will share with us next time!

3/4 Camp

This week, our Year 3/4 students have been enjoying an exciting camp experience at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat. I have been fortunate enough to attend the first two days and see the students immerse themselves in this wonderful learning experience.

Students have had the opportunity to step back in time and experience what life was like during the 1850s Gold Rush. They have enjoyed watching a range of demonstrations and participating in the many activities on offer. We have explored the recreated main street, learnt about traditional trades and even tried our luck at panning for gold! It has been fantastic to see the students engaged, curious and excited as they learn about history through hands-on experiences.

Somers Camp

We have five of our Year 5/6 students who have headed off to Somers Camp this week. They will be away for an exciting nine days, participating in a range of outdoor adventures, challenges and hands-on activities.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to challenge themselves, develop their independence and make new friendships with students from other schools.

We look forward to hearing all about their adventures and experiences when they return!

Trudy









Information about our school's Emergency Management Plan for the 2026/2027 Bushfire season

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, and intruders. 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.

Our school is considered at risk of bushfire or grassfire. We are Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register. Our school will **close** on days of **Catastrophic** fire danger in the North Central fire district. Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

For more information about our bushfire risk, please refer to the attached bushfire news article in this newsletter. The Country Fire Authority also has more information for schools at risk of fire: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/schools>.

If we enact our emergency management plan, we will notify you by our Parent communication app. with updates on our actions. Please do not come to the school unless directed to do so, as you may put yourself and others in danger. If there is anything we need you to do, we will let you know.

During an emergency, the school will work closely with emergency services to get specific advice to keep our community safe. Additionally, the Department of Education has dedicated emergency management staff to help monitor the situation and provide additional support to schools during emergencies.

If you have any questions about our school's emergency management plan, please contact us at upper.plenty.ps@education.vic.gov.au Please be assured our top priority is the safety of our students and school community.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Trudy Whewell

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 prioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

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

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

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website Upper Plenty Primary School, or 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.



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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

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 gazebo.

Hats are available from the office or the uniform shop 1



1 of 1 

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.

Step 1

- 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

- 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

- 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.



- 1 Tap "Order food."
- 2 Select the child, date and service.
- 3 Select the food items you'd like to purchase, then select "View Order."
- 4 Select payment method.
- 5 Hit "Checkout & Pay" to confirm your order.

