



**Diary Dates**  
**Term Three**

**August**

- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> – Tournament of Minds Competition (video submission)
- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> – Book Week and Dress Up Day – **NEW DATE!**
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> – Swimming Catch Up Day

**September**

- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> – A Night at the Movies – Romsey Hall

Today sees the end of Week Six and staggeringly our first full week of onsite learning for the term. Like you, we continue to monitor the news and daily numbers and hope that the region remains exempt from Melbourne's restrictions.

You will notice that events on our calendar seem to be disappearing with the reality of cancellations or postponements taking their toll.

**Swimming**

Yesterday your child would have brought home a note with information about our planned swimming session next week. This is another

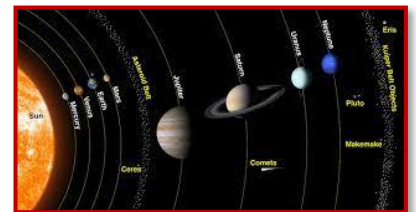
attempt to make up the fifth day of swimming that we missed last term. On this day students are asked to bring along their lunch as usual, ensuring that it is something that can easily be eaten in the park for our picnic style lunch. We are hoping that we will also be able to order sushi as per normal but will double check timing and keep you updated.

**Book Week Dress Up Day – NOW NEXT MONDAY**

Book Week Dress Up was scheduled for next Wednesday however as I have just written above, we have been able to book our final swimming session at Gisborne Aquatic. Book Dress Up Day will now be on Monday. I've just wandered through the classrooms and most children seem to have a plan for their costume, so I am hoping that bringing the day forward by a few days doesn't cause too much inconvenience. As always it is a fun day; I look forward to seeing everyone dressed up as their favourite book character.

**Science Week**

This week is Science Week and saw the culmination of the Senior students' recent unit of work on the planets and the solar system. With Sam, the students have each been researching a chosen planet, learning about its features: its size, temperature, distance from the sun and general properties. Each student made a poster that included each of these facts that they shared with the younger students.



To teach the whole school about the planets and solar system, our Seniors invited the Middle and Junior students to an Interplanetary Party. Like all good parties, the event was well catered for with moon cake (thank you Jack!), Neptune and Venus biscuits (thank you Issy and Blake!), Mercury, terrestrial biscuits (thank you Bridget!) and many other delights: star shaped fairy bread and cheese, and perhaps the most 'interesting' snack of all, alien strawberries – apparently, they tasted a whole lot better than they looked!

The younger students moved around the virtual solar system and learnt something new before eating a space snack from each planet. What a marvellous celebration of learning; thank you to Sam for setting up such a great activity and Mrs T for helping out too.

We will provide updates on the likelihood of our trip to the theatre being rescheduled as soon as we have information to share.

With Victoria's numbers again look precarious, I would like to take a moment to focus on attendance. We know that on one hand we are reminding you of your responsibility to keep your child/ren at home if they are showing any covid-like symptoms, and then on the other hand reminding you of the Department's attendance policy and 'Every Day Counts'.

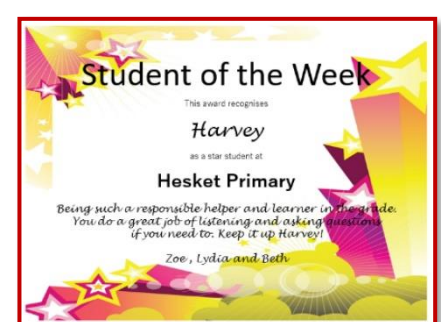
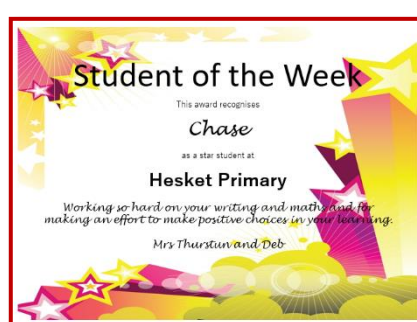
I encourage you to read through the following tables and if relevant to you take a moment to reflect on the importance of school attendance and the effect it has on student achievement.

If a student misses...	That equals...	Which...	And over 13 years of schooling that is...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

<b>Attendance at above 98%</b>	<p>These students have missed 4 days or less in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have every chance of achieving to the best of their ability</li> <li>• These students are likely to have positive friendship groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Attendance 95-97%</b>	<p>These students have missed 5-10 days in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are more likely to be achieving well at school</li> <li>• With only occasional absences, these students will find it fairly easy to get back in touch with the learning program after absences.</li> </ul>
<b>Attendance 90-94%</b>	<p>These students have missed 11-20 days in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These students may find it challenging to keep in touch with the learning program</li> <li>• This student is at risk, aim to improve this student's attendance.</li> </ul>
<b>Attendance 80-89%</b>	<p>These students have missed 21-40 days in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These students have missed up to 1 day every week, which equates to 2.5 years schooling missed by Year 12</li> <li>• It will be very difficult to keep in touch with schoolwork and to maintain social connections</li> <li>• These students need an individual Student Absence Learning Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Attendance below 80%</b>	<p>These students have missed more than 40 days in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These students have missed more than 1 day per week</li> <li>• Students will be 'disconnected' from school. They are almost certain to experience academic and social difficulties</li> <li>• These students need an individual Student Absence Learning Plan.</li> </ul>

## Students of the Week

Congratulations to Charlie, Chase and Harvey who are our very deserving Students of the Week.





## Enrolments – Tours Postponed

I have continued to have much interest in Heskett for 2022 Prep enrolments with a wonderful group of children enrolled for next year, clearly being our biggest cohort in the school. If you know of families within the community who are considering Heskett for their child next year, please encourage them to call or email me [seona.aulich@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:seona.aulich@education.vic.gov.au) to make a time for a tour.



We hope that these restrictions are lifted soon so that tours may resume, and our kinder transition sessions can proceed, later in Term Four.

