



Diary Dates

October

- Mon 12th – School Council @ 4pm
- Mon 19th – Book Week
- Tues 20th – Book Week Dress Up Day
- Thurs 22nd – Sports Dress Up
- Fri 23rd – Public Holiday

November

- Tues 3rd – Cup Day
- Thurs 5th – Heskett Cup
- Tues 24th – 2021 Prep Transition #1

December

- Tues 1st – 2021 Prep Transition #2
- Tues 8th – 2021 Prep Transition #3
- Fri 18th – Last Day of Term Four

How happy I am to welcome you all back to Term Four. We have genuinely missed you all and have been so impressed with the way that students have settled back to school. With a buzz of excitement, students have settled into their learning seamlessly. On a number of occasions over the last few days, staff have stood back and commented to one another on just how resilient, impressive and warm-hearted our students are.

I'd like to officially welcome Gigi and her family to Heskett Primary. Gigi had her first day in the Junior room today and was all smiles. We're very happy that you've joined us at Heskett!



With significant growth in the Junior grade this year, student numbers have moved beyond 20. I'm passionate about maintaining small grade numbers and am aware that Heskett was chosen by many families for this reason. For the remainder of the year, I will be team-teaching with Zoe or withdrawing individual and small groups of students for focused teaching sessions so that individualised learning remains a priority.

Term Four will continue on for us with lots of changes behind the scenes but little in the eyes of our students. Daily hygiene cleans will continue throughout the day on top of regular cleaning. At this stage, daily temperature checks do not be carried out however again, as I remind you that students with sniffles, temperatures or coughs need to stay at home. Can parents please refrain from entering the main building without invitation; we are more than happy to come outside for a chat over the fence if needed.

Looking ahead, we know that there are lots of things that we are going to be unable to do this term but we are determined to focus on what we can. Heskett traditions are important and we'll do our best to maintain them, even if they look a little different. This term we're looking forward to Heskett Cup, Book Week, The Mulberries and even an online incursion or two.

Both grades had class meetings yesterday where students talked through what they were looking forward to about the year, with our Grade Sixes talking about the nervousness and excitement that it wrapped up in finishing primary school and heading to secondary. It was a good opportunity to begin to share with students what 2021 will look like with students getting excited at the prospect of a third grade and new teachers to join the current team.

Transition

Yesterday afternoon Zoe and I hosted an online transition/information session where we were able to talk to enrolled and prospective families about learning at Heskett. The session was a great success and officially begun our transition program for our eight 2021 Preps. At this stage we expect to begin the 2021 school year with approximately 45 students.



Birthdays

Over the holidays Ella, Kobi, Jayden and Hillary all celebrated their birthdays. We hope you have a lovely time celebrating and you all got spoilt on your special days!



Students of the Week

Well done to Emily and Max who are our first two Students of the Week for Term Four. Emily has taken such incredible care with the publishing of her poetry, even measuring spaces to make sure it was just right! Max has also had a brilliant few days, and if you'll remember, was also the last Student of the Week for Mr Williamson. Can someone win this award two weeks in a row? Well Max just has. Well done to you both!



Other News Around Heskett

- Over the holidays a sprinkler system and pump were installed on the main building. In the event of a nearby fire, the system will be activated, better protecting our designated shelter in place.
- An audit of all trees of the property was carried out yesterday so ensure the grounds are safe.
- School Council will meet on Monday afternoon to discuss the potential move to a larger before and after school care provided, School's Out.

Before and After School Care – From Last Newsletter

Our current before and after school care program has a capacity for seven students. On a number of afternoons, there is now a waiting list for the program and so, School Council have begun investigating how we can extend the service to meet the current and projected needs of the school. We have just heard that we are not permitted to extend the service to 10 students as we had hoped in its current format.

In consultation with Judy, we have been in communication with School's Out Before and After Care, who provide a service to a number of local schools in the area.

Our investigations to date tell us that School's Out is a highly structured, engaging, well run program. At this stage, we have made no commitment to School's Out. While this potential change was discussed at length at the last School Council meeting, I would like to hear from you, if you have particular views.

One element that is important to most families is the cost of the program which differs in structure from the current program.

School's Out is charged at sessional rates:

- \$30 for After School Care before Government subsidy

- \$24 for Before School Care before Government subsidy.

The following is an approximate estimate of the subsidy that families are entitled to, depending on family income.

Your family income	Child Care Subsidy percentage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0 to \$69,390 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than \$69,390 to below \$174,390 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 85% and 50% The percentage goes down by 1% for every \$3,000 of income your family earns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$174,390 to below \$253,680 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50%

Please make contact with me, if you have any particular questions or comments.

