

# Our News



News from Templestowe Heights Primary School

Templestowe Heights  
Primary School

9850 1796

Newsletter Term 1 Week 1

29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## *Templestowe Heights Primary School Values*

Persistence

Respect

Courage

Responsibility

"Inspiring learners for life"

## Welcome Back to the new School Year

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### Welcome Back!

Routines, structure and order are back! It was great to see our parents and carers with beaming smiles on their faces, as they witnessed their children walk into their new classrooms. There was plenty of excitement and nerves from our students, who were keen to reconnect with their friends, but not so much with early morning starts.

I hope all families are now recharged, ready to embrace whatever 2026 brings. Our staff spent Tuesday and Wednesday participating in workshops designed to prepare us for the strategic goals and actions we have set for this school year. It also provided time for staff to prepare and plan lessons, set up learning spaces and complete administrative tasks.

On the first day of school, we would like to welcome the following students Harper(2LH), Keeva(2RW), Ethan(2LH), Jayden(1RR), Kelsey(4NS), Liam(4NS), Damien(2LH), Kylie(4NS), Siena(2EA), Clara(1KD), Barron(3EJ), Aaron(4KW), Victoria(1KD), Ledio(3DL), Illias(2CS), Ellie(4LZ) and Siena(6KS). who have commenced their learning journey at THPS.

We would also like to welcome our new staff of **Sarah Santaera** (1SS), **Dani Lee** (5DL) and **Tori Tabbitt** (6ST). This is also Dani's first ever day as a teacher, as she commences what we know will be a long and successful career.



This coming Wednesday we welcome our Foundation students, who commence their school journey with us. On this morning, we will have a free coffee cart as we welcome families and hope that some caffeine will help ease the nerves (highly doubtful).

#### Smart/Phone Watches

As part of our Mobile Phone policy, students are permitted to wear smart/phone watches to school. Students **must** have their watches on a setting that disables any SMS or phone call during school time of 8:45am-3:30pm.

## Vale Anne Matthews

It is with sadness that we inform the community that our previous Principal, Anne Matthews passed away peacefully on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Anne commenced as class teacher at THPS in 1994. Her three children came along with her and were all students. She taught alongside our current staff member, Kate Stacker (ne Cohen). In 2005 Anne became Assistant Principal and in 2008 she took over as Principal until her retirement at the end of 2014.

During Anne's tenure, she was instrumental in the redevelopment of the school. She negotiated the merge with Manningham Park Primary in 2010. She fought for further funding with the government and in total acquired \$6.5 million to redevelop the interior and exterior of our school to what it resembles today. Anne was a genuine and authentic leader, who cared deeply for the success of all students.



Personally, I will never forget the conversation she had with me in late 2014. She explained that she was retiring and that THPS was a wonderful small school, with a great community and staff ready for change. She encouraged me to apply for the role, and it was a real sliding doors moment for my own life. Without Anne's encouragement, I would not be in the position I am today, a 10 year journey that has brought me so much joy, fulfilment and wonderful memories being part of a school community that has grown into the thriving place it is today. Vale Anne.

## House Keeping – Assemblies and Contact Details

Just as a reminder, our school assemblies will be held on Friday afternoons using a three-week cycle where students will have a year level, sub-school (F-2 & 3-6) and whole school assembly. Our first whole school assembly will be Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2:45pm in the gym. All members of our community are welcome to attend.

If you have moved to a new property or your emergency contacts have changed, please contact the office so we can update them.

## Rhys Coulson

### Principal

| CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026                          |   |
|--|---|
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January                | First day of Term 1   |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February               | First day of school for Foundation Students   |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February                  | Swimming Carnival Year 3 to 6   |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February              | Foundation Information Session 6.30pm (Webex)<br>Year 1 to 6 Information Session (Onsite) |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February                 | District Swimming   |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> & Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb | School Photos   |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February               | Welcome Picnic - 5.30 to 7.00pm - Oval  |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February                 | Whole School Assembly – Gym 2.45pm – All Welcome  |
| Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> March | Parent/Carer Teacher Discussions  |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March                     | Labour Day Public Holiday   |
| Pupil Free Days                                  |   |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March                     |   |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May                      |   |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                  |   |

## 2026 TERM DATES

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Term 1</b> | <b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> |
| <b>Term 2</b> | <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>       |
| <b>Term 3</b> | <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>   |
| <b>Term 4</b> | <b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>  |

## FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome back to the new school year. We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another busy year at Templestowe Heights.

### 2026 Parent/Carer Contributions

2026 school fees are due by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Please remember to return the form with your payment. If you require a new form please contact the office.

### Classroom Cuisine

Classroom cuisine will be open for ordering lunch from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This service is available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. TK Tuckshop begin their service on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This service is available every Tuesday only.

Please see the menu attached to this message.

## STUDENT MEDICAL EXPENSES

Parent/carers are reminded that they are liable for all medical expenses incurred as a result of a student injury or medical need, including transport costs such as ambulance costs (this may include an air ambulance should that be considered necessary) while at school or participating in a school activity.

Parent/carers may not be informed prior to an ambulance being called depending on the situation. The staff will use their judgment as to what action to take in cases of a student's accident or sudden illness.

We encourage parents/cares to have up to date ambulance cover and medical insurance.

Student accident policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. It is highly recommended that families have Ambulance Victoria Membership Cover if it is not included in your private health cover. Ambulance costs are very expensive and are not covered by Medicare.

## DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

Parents/carers are reminded that any personal item/property that is brought to school by a student is the responsibility of the students' and is not the responsibility of the school and is not covered by school insurance. Students are responsible for personal items/property they bring to school. Neither the Department nor the school is responsible if any student's personal item/property is lost, stolen or damaged.

## CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND APPLICATIONS

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below. If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

new student enrolments: your child has started or changed schools this year.

changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

## VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL (WWC)

All parents and carers wishing to visit or volunteer at the school need to hold a valid Working With Children Check (WWC). This can be done online at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>. Once you have received your card please present it to the office.

## FIRST AID NEWS

If you took your child's EpiPen of medication home over the school holidays please remember to return it to the office as soon as possible. and ensure the medications are still in date along with any updated plans.



**ART** *with Cecile*  
**AFTER SCHOOL**

Get **inspired!** Get **creative!** Explore drawing, painting, and sculpture in a **fun** learning environment.

**Grades 1-2 (2026):**  
Thursdays, 3.45-5.00 pm  
12 Feb 2026 - 26 Mar 2026  
\$245 term fee

**Grades 3-6 (2026):**  
Tuesdays, 3.45-5.00 pm  
10 Feb 2026 - 31 Mar 2026  
\$280 term fee

**ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!**

Classes held at the THPS Art Room  
Places are limited. All materials included. Free take home visual diary for new students.

Click or scan to enrol



art@cecilegray.com  
0438 515 836  
cecilegray.com/classes



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**BULLEEN TEMPLESTOWE JFC**

**BULLANTS  
COMMUNITY**

# KICK-OFF DAY!

**Sunday the 15th of February, 2026  
10am - 4pm  
Ted Ajani Oval, Templestowe Lower**

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR 2026! FREE FOR GIRLS**  
Inclusive **FREE** fun for all:

- Rides.
- AFL inflatables.
- Jumping castles.
- Face painting.
- Giveaways.
- Inclusive footy games for boys and girls.

Supported by North East Link Program's  
**North East Community Fund**

<https://www.thebullants.com/>



**4-WEEK  
POP UP  
BLAST**

Sign up to our 4-week action packed program and share the joy of cricket with exciting games, learning and friendships.

**DATES:** Tuesdays February 3 - February 24 2026, 4:30-5:30pm  
**VENUE:** Koonung Park, Furneaux Grove, Bulleen  
**COST:** \$35 (includes all sessions plus a drink bottle, tote bag, and ball!)

Suitable for all abilities, ages 4-8  
For more information contact Claire on 0423 292 535



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