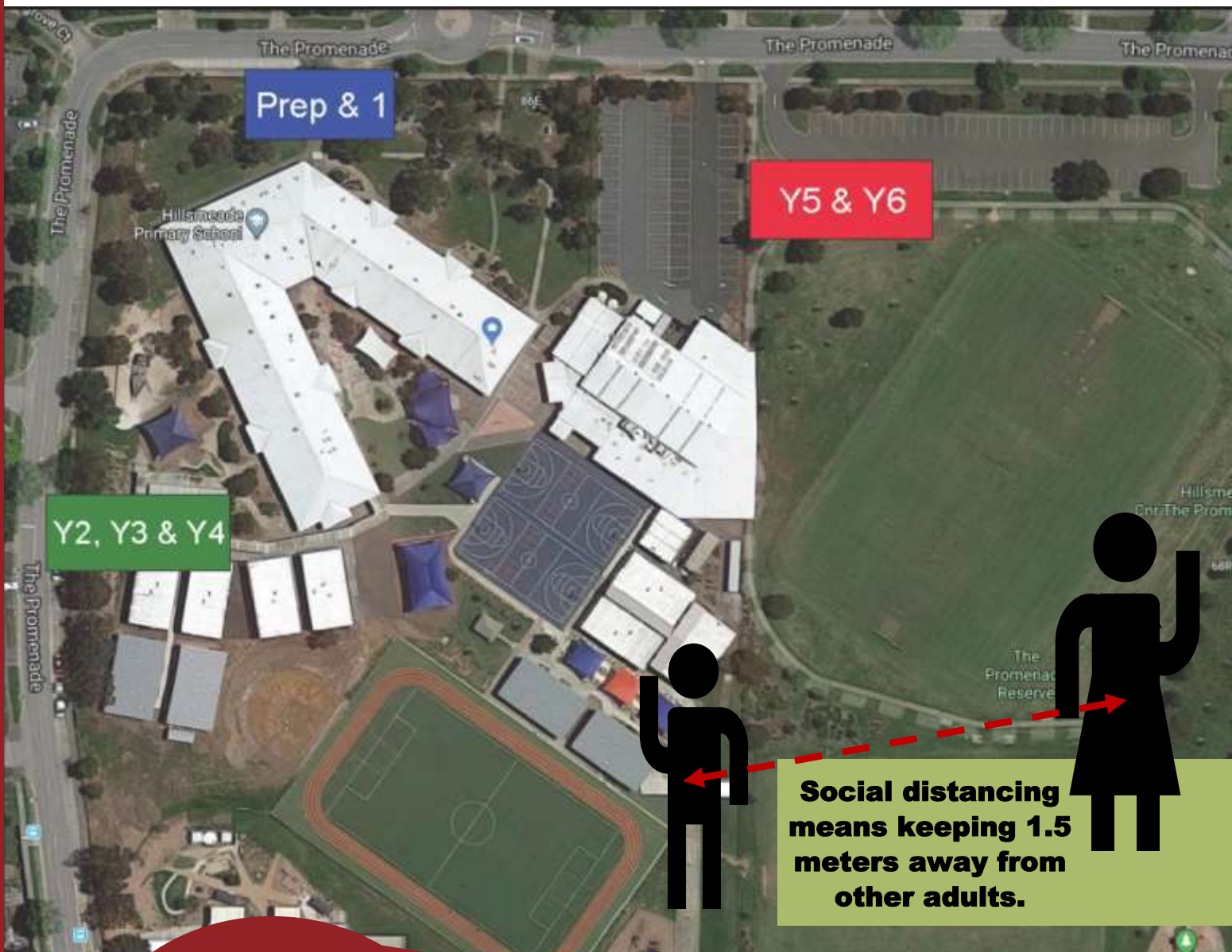


# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



More than one child?

**Students are to enter and exit via the eldest's gate.**



Please remember to bring a drink bottle to school each day.

ENTRY POINTS AS OF TUES JUNE 9TH

Gates will be supervised from 8:30am each morning.

Students will be able to be collected from the exit points from 3:20pm.

Parents are to remain outside of the fence line adhering to distancing measures.



**Overdue:**

A reminder that Year 7 transition forms were due to the office May 29th. Please return them ASAP, if you haven't already done so.

**Enrol NOW for 2021!**

Email us for an enrolment pack @  
[hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

# The Link

Hillsmeade Primary School Newsletter

Issue No 18—WED 17th JUNE

TERM 2  
**2020**



THE FULL CALENDAR AND DETAILED EVENT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW VIA THE COMPASS APP OR WEBSITE

## WHO, WHAT, WHEN?

MON JUNE 15th	TUES JUNE 16th	WED JUNE 17th	THUR JUNE 18th	FRI JUNE 19th
				Virtual Assembly Posted to COMPASS
MON JUNE 22nd	TUES JUNE 23rd	WED JUNE 24th	THUR JUNE 25th	FRI JUNE 26th
				Last day of Term 2 Student's finish at 2:30pm
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 27TH JUNE - 12TH JULY				
MON JULY 13th	TUES JULY 14th	WED JULY 15th	TUES JULY 14th	TUES JULY 14th
First day back for Term 3				

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hillsmeade Community,

**Happy Week 10 everyone. Term 2 is flying by. We hope that everyone has settled back positively in our return to face-to-face on site learning. We continue to appreciate the support of the parent community with drop offs and pick-ups.**



We have noticed some wonderful skills of independence and care shine through as our junior students take on responsibilities around entering the classroom and getting into class routines and as our senior students collect siblings at the end of the day and support them in exiting from the correct gate. At this stage we have had no further advice from DET regarding changes to this process. So for the remainder of Term 2 we will continue to utilise the gate entry and exit points, with staff on the gates from 8:30am and 3:20pm.

I hope all AFL supporters are happy that the football is back in action. I had a lovely time Friday evening watching the mighty Geelong Cats back playing so well, particularly against the Hawks (sorry Mr Bray and Mr Cardamone). We are very hopeful that the annual Term 3 football day can take place and we can again have on display our supporter's team colours.

## Student Leaders

We are very excited to have our Year 6 student's leaders be receiving this student leader badges this week as part of our virtual assembly. Our Year 6 student leaders play an important role in supporting our school connectedness. They are involved in developing Hillsmeade Happenings, leading clubs within recess and lunch time, planning whole school events, supporting student voice and agency across the school and within many other events.

## Hillsmeade Showcase work

Throughout Term 2 our school had the opportunity to share some of our work within the school. Namely, our approaches around Be You and Staff Matter, our teacher work in developing content for ABC education. Even though it has been a challenging time, it has been wonderful to showcase some exciting parts of Hillsmeade.

**John Cardamone** – presented at the National Be You Conference about the work in Be You across our school.

**Jess Szalek and Dimple Bhardwaj** – presenting via Microsoft Teams to our Senior Education Improvement Leader (SEIL) Anne Martin, Acting Area Director Mark Anderson, Regional Executive Director Ian Burrage, Senior Education Improvement Leader School Improvement Debbie Locco and Regional Director Angela Singh.

**Leadership Pledge: We are proud to be a part of the Leadership Team.**

**As proud leaders, we pledge to:**

- Set a good example through what we say and do
- Help everyone who is in need, at the school and in the community
- Live up to what is expected of us
- Look after our environment
- Wear our badges with pride and dignity

**As leaders of Hillsmeade, this is our pledge.**



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Tilly Le Faou and Kristie Jenner** (Staff Matter Team leaders) – presenting to the above panel around the work our school engages in (particularly throughout the remote learning period) in promoting and supporting staff health and wellbeing.

**Sarah Smith and Crystal Wells**– sharing of their developed documentation around remote learning (parent and staff handbooks), as well as the ReConnect Toolkit that was developed in preparation for students returning from remote learning.

### Re-connect

The planning in the Re-Connect tool kit has been used throughout our return to face-to-face teaching. This resource has been shared across the state and is developed based on strong evidence and research into re-engagement after significant events. A huge well done to Sarah Smith and Crystal Wells for their work in developing this wonderful resource. Our teachers have been utilising this in their weekly and daily lessons.

Below is some student feedback about being involved in some reconnect activities.

“We connect as a class by going for laps around the oval and talking about the zones of regulation. We share examples of how we can get to the green zone - ready to learn.”

- Flynn H 6/A

“We connect as a class by going for 2 laps around the oval and having a little chat with our friends.”

- Caleb S 6/A

A reminder that **this Friday at 2:45pm our virtual assembly** will be posted out to our school community via COMPASS. This week our virtual assembly will be organised by Travis Cole and the student leaders.

A big thank you to Jess Szalek for previously coordinating the virtual assembly.

**Have a great week. Go Cats!**

**Mrs Jodie Bray**

**Principal**

**Love local**  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SAVE

Has your Entertainment Membership expired?

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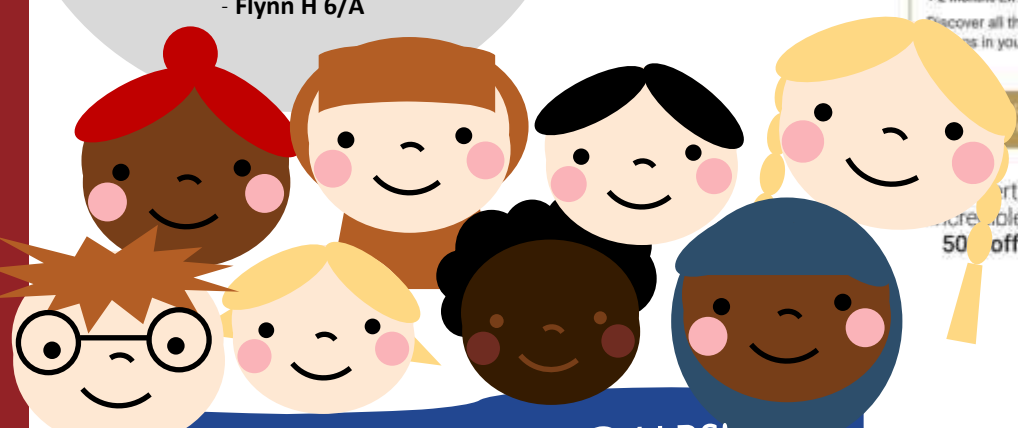
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Entertainment Memberships are filled with thousands of incredible savings on dining, activities, travel & shopping. **Up to 50% off and 2-for-1 deals in your city and across Australia.**

**Renew & support us**



Every face has a place @ H.P.S!

## FROM OUR STUDENTS

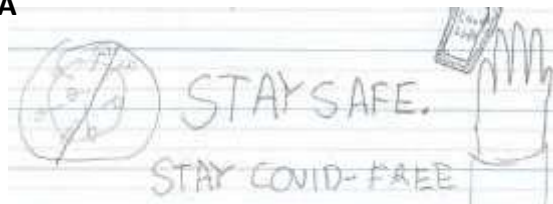
### Going back to school

After 12 weeks of staying at home, going back to school is a relief . Why? Usually people don't want to go to school. Well maybe it's because that even though staying at home is great for maybe two weeks, after a while you get really bored. Plus, it is really good for students to see their friends again.

Going back to school is great. Seeing the teachers and even doing the work is a bit nicer than usual. Staying home may be nice for some people , but definitely for me (and a lot more) really liked going back to school for three weeks. I also hope everyone had a great time in home learning. - **Oliver S 4/A**

Dear Australia,

2020 was a year like no other. When Covid-19 started shops and schools started closing down. Everyone was fighting over toilet paper. People started to stay in their homes. Kids were learning at home, some people were coming to school like me. Covid-19 had come to Australia, people in Australia had got Covid-19. I was learning at school because my Mum and Dad were working. I was not allowed at the shops and busy places. When my Mum or Dad is not working I have to stay home. - **Alice-Lily S 4/A**



It was very easy to get back to school and share the crazy time that it was.

Stay safe.

### Getting Back to School

Well, remote learning has it's challenges, but that time has passed. When I heard the news, I couldn't wait!

When I got back to school, I was amazed at how easy it was to get back into the routines.

The first thing we did was reflect on help at home.

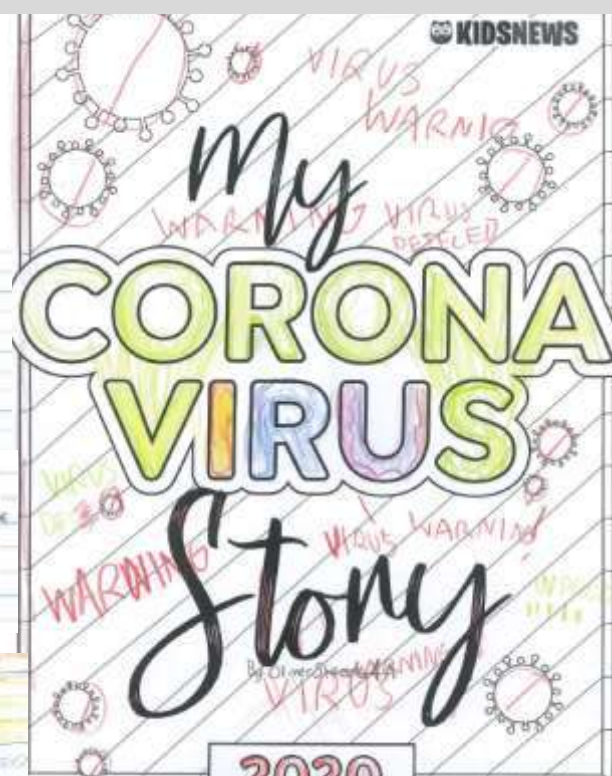
Then I was excited to share my experiences during learning from home. During the past two weeks we mostly talked about the emotions and in writing we all wrote about our time at home.

It was very easy to get back to school and share the crazy time that it was. - **Brenna M 4/A**

Dear Australia,

The Coronavirus is a deadly, contagious disease that almost 5,000,000 people have. I had to stay home for about two months. Had to do remote learning from home. The shops were going low on supplies and panic buying continued. It was a disaster. COVID-19 has spread world-wide , corona virus has affected many people's lives. There were fights over toilet paper. I had to go through a lot of boring days at home and I couldn't see my friends for a LONG TIME and that was a big bummer. I hope some day this virus will go away!

- **Mehran A 4/A**





FROM OUR COMMUNITY



This week we are asking you to watch Mrs Struth read “The Three Little Bush Pigs” on the Hillsmeade website.

<http://www.hillsmeade.vic.edu.au/curriculum/literacy/teacher-readings/>



Please send your creative creations to Miss Carter and Mrs Patolo and you may be featured in the next Hillsmeade Happenings: [tcarter@hillsmeade.vic.edu.au](mailto:tcarter@hillsmeade.vic.edu.au)

Reading Support at home!



A Book Club Blackline Master  
This page is fully reproducible

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# Word Family Bingo

## Bingo Boards

Word Family Bingo					Word Family Bingo				
bog	coll	rain	deep	pop	dash	sell	track	pain	take
blink	top	mine	dad	cat	late	ball	sick	cent	sleep
claw	lick	ring	smell	dent	mop	hill	paw	tray	pin
bill	jam	spin	hay	rake	sing	fan	swam	flap	drink
man	cash	pot	mate	rack	dine	hot	glad	fat	wag

Word Family Bingo					Word Family Bingo				
main	black	bell	sash	beep	spring	hot	saw	gate	link
make	tent	pick	wall	plate	mash	hat	ham	sheep	sent
grin	pan	tag	pram	sad	win	bake	mod	tick	pan
away	draw	swing	mill	clap	train	gray	hop	map	still
swine	pink	stop	bat	cot	sack	coll	rag	nine	spell

Please access the scholastic website for some resources to support your students with their reading and spelling at home.

<https://shop.scholastic.com.au/featureditems.aspx?>

## FROM MR CARDAMONE



Community,

Week 10! The end of the term is coming around fast! It has been great to see all students at school, happy and engaging with their learning and friends.

Last week I shared some information on Be You and how I presented to a national online showcase the work we do to support our teachers, students, families and the community with mental health and wellbeing at Hillsmeade. As a school we have just completed the professional learning domain 'Learning Resilience' which had a focus on:

- What resilience is.
- Recognise why learning resilience is important for later in life.
- Articulate the relationship between empowerment and resilience in children and young people, and the impact this has on one's sense of belonging and ability to contribute.
- Describe what child and youth empowerment looks like in an education setting, and how it supports mental health and wellbeing.

This gave all staff an opportunity to reflect on our practice and discuss any new learnings, ideas and thoughts. Next term we will be completing the professional learning domain 'Family partnerships'. This has a focus on:

- What positive relationships with families look like.
- Understand effective communication strategies.

We look forward to continuing to learn, grow, develop and partner with you in supporting your children's mental health and wellbeing.

Below is another article from Michael Grose. He talks about some strategies in best supporting your children in returning to school. Although we have all our students back, some of the strategies he outlines would apply in other situations. If you would like to know more, please visit the website <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/>

### ***Returning to school anxiety free***

*Going back to school after the enforced COVID-19 break is a source of mixed emotions for many children and young people. Some students, who revel in face-to-face interactions, just can't wait to reconnect with friends and teachers. Others who have appreciated the break from constantly being emotionally switched on when at school may be reticent to return.*

*Regardless of how your child reacts there's bound to be a level of anxiety attached to returning to school after such a long break. The following strategies sourced from my book, [\*Anxious Kids\*](#), will help your child make a smooth transition back to school.*

#### **Park your expectations**

*School undoubtedly will be a different experience for students post COVID-19. It may require you to adjust your expectations, particularly academically, so patience is definitely required. Education is a long game, so if you are worried about your child missing the educational beat, recognise that this experience has been a blip on the educational curve. It's worth remembering that anxiety loves company. Park your expectations for a time, so your child won't pick up your anxieties.*

#### **Understand that their anxiety is real**

*An anxious child desperately wants a parent to understand that they feel anxious and apprehensive. Even if, you can't comprehend the impact that a return to school has on their state of mind and physiology, recognise that their anxiety is real. "Ah, I see you're worried that you won't know what to do when you go to school" is the type of response that an anxious child wants from a parent. Validating your child's feelings will help them feel safe and secure, putting them in a good position to make a return to school. "Mum/dad know that I'm feeling nervous" is very reassuring for a child.*

#### **Prepare them**

*Worriers and anxious types in particular, like to know what's ahead. Prepare your child for a return by discussing the safety procedures the school will be implementing. Let young children know that an adult won't be accompanying them past the school gate. Ask your child what they are looking forward to and check in with how they are feeling about a return. Check in regularly with how they are feeling and correct any misconceptions.*

#### **Focus on reconnection**

*Make reconnection the theme for your child's return to school. He or she will have to reconnect with friends, teachers and learning, which takes time. In all likelihood, your child's teachers will use many strategies to help your child connect with their friends, reflect on their time at home and move them back into full-time learning mode. Support these activities and reassure your child that they'll feel comfortable very soon with their school experience.*

#### **Stay off the roundabout for a while**

*This period will mirror the start of the school year when your child had to adjust to new teachers, different*

## FROM MR CARDAMONE

*classmates and a new year level. Adjusting to change takes a great deal of personal energy, so your child or young person may become tired, grumpy, even moody at home. Make allowances for these personal changes and make sure they have plenty of free time to unwind after school to relax and play.*

### **Take care of yourself**

*In recent months parents and teachers have been doing significant emotional labour. The learning and adjustment curves have been massive, with little time to relax and take a break. Consider your own emotional resources and make your wellbeing a priority, which will make it easier for you to stay calm if your child experiences difficulties.*

*The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown many difficulties, requiring us all to quickly adapt to new situations. Flexibility is a prime characteristic of resilient people, so if nothing else, getting through these times will make us all more resilient."*

If you have questions, please let me know.

**Thank you**

**John Cardamone**  
Leading Teacher in Social and Emotional Learning



**Social and emotional learning... 'It's everyone's business!'**

## SUPPORTED PLAY

This week during Supported Play, our Junior students enjoyed engaging in our 'Sand Play' experience.

With some added props such as spades, buckets and containers, our students inadvertently practised using their pro social skills such as sharing, waiting, turn-taking and language whilst happily engaging with one another. Cakes, smoothies, ice cream and milkshakes were offered to supporting staff by our 'budding' cooks (which we of course gratefully accepted).

Collaborative, Imaginative and Social play were all observed during this supported play experience. - **Ms Tania Agnew, Education Support**



A reminder to please follow directions from the crossing supervisors.

Do not cross until the whistle blows!

### **City of Casey 'Ride or Scoot to School' Competition**

<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfCasey/photos/a.10150950680957471/10156967202877471>







# Canteen News

## Choc Coconut Brownies

**Prep Time: 10mins**

**Cook Time: 20mins**

**Total Time: 40mins**

### **Ingredients**

- 1cup Self Raising Flour
- 1 cup Cocoa
- 1 cup Desiccated Coconut
- 1 cup Raw Sugar
- 1 cup Natural or Greek Style Yoghurt
- 4 Free Range Eggs
- 3 tablespoons Vegetable Oil

**Please note:** The canteen is currently not accepting cash. Recess snacks are available for purchase via the QKR app.

### **Instructions**

- Preheat oven to 160 degrees Celsius. Grease and line a brownie pan
- Place all dry ingredients into a bowl and mix well. Add wet ingredients and mix until just incorporated. Place mix into lined pan and bake for 20 minutes or until just cooked in the centre.
- Allow to cool then cut into 24 pieces

Enjoy 😊



# Splash's

learn to swim

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACCELERATE PROGRAM

**6-9 April  
6-9 July  
28 Sept.- 1 Oct.  
2020**

It is a well researched fact that a short burst of intensive learning accelerates motor skill development



**BOOK TODAY**

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- Small class sizes
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Our learn to swim program also caters to children of all ages from babies as young as 12 weeks right up to aqua level swimmers.



**Moonlit Sanctuary**  
*the best way to see Aussie animals*

### GO WILD THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT MOONLIT SANCTUARY KEEPER CLUB

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals and food prep, animal enrichment activities. Learn about our animals, their conservation and the environment. For ages 7-14 years.

**Winter 2020 school holiday dates:**

Week 1: Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am-3pm

Week 2: Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm

Cost: \$90.00 per day, or \$250 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days). Small groups of 10 children per day.

**Bookings essential as spaces are limited**

Dress for the weather, wear closed-toe shoes and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

**Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Park**

550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale

Phone 5978 7935

[www.moonlitsanctuary.com.au](http://www.moonlitsanctuary.com.au)

Open daily between 10am and 5pm. Keeper Club runs from 10am-3pm.



**Breakfast Club  
(Grab and go)  
8:30-8:45am  
every Tuesday**