



Specimen Hill Primary School
Inglewood St. Golden Square, Victoria, 3555
www.shps1316.vic.edu.au
E: specimen.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au
T: 03 5443 5353
Principal: Jac Louttit
Assistant Principal: Hayden Polglase



Our children's future in the very best of hands.

Thursday 11th September 2025

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are Moving from Sentral to Compass

As a school, we have reviewed our student management system, with our current contract with Sentral concluding on at the end of September. This provides a timely opportunity to transition to our new system Compass, which is now widely used across Victorian government schools and all four of our Bendigo secondary schools utilise this platform. Compass offers a more streamlined and user-friendly platform for staff, students, and families, integrating attendance, reporting, communication, and wellbeing management into one system. It also provides improved compatibility with Department of Education processes and enhanced support for parent engagement through its mobile app and communication tools. Moving to Compass will place our school in line with contemporary best practice and ensure we have a reliable, efficient system moving forward. **Further communication to our families will begin next week. As a school we will begin utilising Compass officially on the first day of Term 4.**

Planning Ahead for 2026 – Help Us Stay Prepared

If you are considering leaving Specimen Hill Primary School at any time in the next six months, we kindly ask that you let the school office know as early as possible. Your plans don't need to be final but having a heads-up is incredibly helpful. Early information about potential changes helps us plan accurately for our 2026 classes, staffing, and budgeting. We want to ensure that all students are placed in balanced, well-supported learning environments — not in classes that are too large or too small. If you think you may be moving, please email the school at: specimen.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au as soon as possible. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Swimming Program

Last week marked the conclusion of our annual Swimming Program, and what a fantastic week it was! From the first excited splashes to the last confident strokes, our students gave it their all — showing courage, growth, and lots of smiles along the way.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made this week such a success:

- To our students: You impressed us every day with your enthusiasm, perseverance, and willingness to try something new.
- To our families: Your ongoing support in packing swimwear each day.
- To our staff: We couldn't have done it without you! Your supervision and planning kept everything running smoothly and ensured a safe, supportive, and fun environment for our students.

Swimming is such an important life skill, and we're thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity. We hope your children not only gained confidence in the water but also had a lot of fun along the way.

Thank you once again to everyone involved — we're already looking forward to making a splash again next year!

Specimen Hill Primary School is committed to the Child Safe Standards

Father's Day Stall and BBQ

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful Parents and Friends Committee for their incredible efforts in organising and running both the Father's Day Stall and the Father's Day BBQ last Friday.

The stall was a fantastic success, giving our students the joy of selecting special gifts for their dads, grandfathers, and special father figures. It's always lovely to see the excitement on students' faces as they thoughtfully choose something meaningful — thank you to everyone who helped make that moment possible.

Following the stall, the Father's Day BBQ created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for families to come together. From cooking sausages to setting up and packing down, our P&F Committee once again went above and beyond to make the day enjoyable for all.

Events like these don't happen without a lot of planning, time, and dedication. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed and generous group of volunteers who contribute so much to our school community.

Thank you once again to everyone involved — your efforts are deeply appreciated and make a real difference in building the strong, connected community we value so highly at Speci.

As Successful Return of Bike Education

We're thrilled to share the success of our recent **Bike Ed program** for our Year 3 to 6 students — and what a fantastic return it was! From 25th August – 29th August students embraced the opportunity to build their bike-riding confidence, learn important skills, and enjoy the freedom and fun that comes with cycling. From balance and braking safely, our students have grown in both skill and confidence.

This program was made even more special thanks to the incredible support from the **City of Greater Bendigo**, who generously provided:

- A full **fleet of bikes and helmets** for student use, ensuring every child could participate, regardless of access to their own bike.
- A hands-on **bike mechanics workshop**, teaching some students how to maintain and care for their bikes
- An engaging **Bike Ed incursion**, packed with practical knowledge and interactive learning

We are extremely grateful for this partnership and the opportunities it has created for our students to develop life-long cycling skills.

A huge **thank you** to the City of Greater Bendigo for their support, and to our staff for helping deliver a safe, fun and educational experience for all involved. We look forward to keeping the wheels turning and building on this momentum in the years to come! Well done to all our budding cyclists — and remember, **ride safe, ride smart!**

Parent Opinion Survey Extended

Your feedback is important to us. The Parent/Caregiver/ Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey closes **Friday 19 September 2025**. Please see email sent out on Monday 18th August for a link and school PIN.

End of Term Assembly

We will hold our end of term assembly on Friday 19th September at 2pm. This is when we present our termly school values award and fantastic term award.

Last Day of Term 3

Term 3 concludes next Friday 19th September at 2.30pm. Term 4 commences on Monday 6th October.

What's On at Speci

September		
Friday 12 th September	9:00am – 12pm	Grade 5/6 Passions and Pathways Expo – Bendigo Library
Monday 15 th September	All Day	Division Athletics – qualified students only
Friday 19 th September	2:00pm	End of Term Assembly
Friday 19th September	2:30pm Finish	End of Term 3
October		
Monday 6th October	9:00am	Term 4 Begins
Friday 10 th October	Various Times - TBC	Jets Gym – Gr 3-6 Program
Friday 17 th October	Various Times	Jets Gym – Gr 3-6 Program
Monday 20 th October	7pm	School Council Meeting
Friday 24 th October	Various Times	Jets Gym – Gr 3-6 Program
Friday 24 th October	All Day	Division Cricket
Friday 24 th October	Time TBC	Colour Fun Run – Parents and Friends
Monday 27 th October	All Day	Grade 3-4 Science Works Excursion - Melbourne
Wednesday 29th October	All Day	Bendigo Cup
Friday 31 st October	Various Times	Jets Gym – Gr 3-6 Program
Friday 31 st October	All Day	World Teacher's Day
November		
Friday 7 th November	Various Times	Jets Gym – Gr 3-6 Program
Friday 14th November	All Day	Professional Practice Day Report Writing Pupil Free Day
Monday 17 th November – Wednesday 19 th November	9am Departure 3pm Return	Grade 5 -6 Camp – Log Cabin Creswick
Tuesday 18 th November	All Day	2026 Prep Transition 1:1 Interviews
Tuesday 25 th November	9:15am-10:45am	2026 Prep Transition Session
December		
Monday 1 st December	7pm	School Council Meeting and Dinner
Tuesday 2 nd December	9:15am – 10:45am	Transition Session – 2026 Prep Students
Friday 5 th December	Various Times	Parents and Friends – Christmas Stall
Tuesday 9 th December	9am -11:45am – 2026 Preps All Day - Gr 6's	State-Wide Transition Day 2026 Preps and New students Gr 1-6: 9:00am-11:45am Grade 6 students to attend their 2026 Secondary School – All Day
Thursday 11 th December	Time TBC	End of Year Dance Concert – Red Energy Arena
Wednesday 17 th December	Time TBC	Grade 6 Graduation – The Bendigo Club - Strathdale
Thursday 18 th December	9:15-11:45am P – Gr 2 12pm – 2:45pm Gr 3-6	Fun Day at Golden Square Community Pool
Friday 19th December	1:30pm	End of Term 4 – Early Dismissal 1:30pm
January 2026		
Tuesday 27 th January	All Day	Term 1 Begins - Teachers Only
Wednesday 28th January	All Day	Proposed Pupil Free Day – School Council Approval Pending
Thursday 29 th January	9am	Term 1 Begins for students

STUDENT AWARDS

Empathy

Excellence

Honesty

Resilience

Respect

Awards presented at Friday morning circles in class

Grade	Student of the Week
Prep/One – Room 1	Harry B
Prep/One – Room 2	No award this week due to teacher being on leave
Grade 1/2 - Room 3	Holly K
Grade 1/2 - Room 4	Jaycob G
Grade 3/4 – Room 7	Emily W
Grade 3/4 - Room 8	Logan B
Grade 3/4 - Room 9	Orlando M
Grade 5/6 - Room 10	Isabella G-R
Grade 5/6 - Room 11	Ethan B
Grade 4/5 - Room 12	Hunter M
Grade 5/6 - Room 13	Shelbi R
Physical Education	Laney K - Room 3
Art	Ashlyn W -Room 8
Chinese	Jobee C - Room 1
Principal Award	Katie M - Room 4

We're excited to let you know that bookings for our September/October holiday program are now open and we are ready to inspire children with days filled with creativity, discovery and fun.

Families from Specimen Hill Primary School can join our Rocketeers holiday program at the nearest location, Golden Square Primary School.

We'd love your help in spreading the word so more families can join the fun and give their children a holiday to remember.

[Download Rocketeers Program Here](#)

[Download Rocketeers Flyer Here](#)