

The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School
Thursday, October 30th, 2025
Newsletter No. 17

Our Vision:

QHPS students are empowered to be engaged learners. Our community fosters a culture of respect and belonging.

2025 TERM DATES

Term 4: 6th October - 19th December

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1: 27th January (students start 28th January) - 2nd April

Term 2: 20th April - 26th June

Term 3: 13th July - 18th September

Term 4: 5th October - 18th December

Principal: Anne Rochford

School Council President: Andrew Ellis

PFA President: Michelle Kennedy

PFA Vice President: Rhayven Milliner

~OUR VALUES~

Kind

I understand that everyone is different.
I co-operate.
I respect myself, others, and the environment.
I am community minded.
I belong.

Curious

I am a learner.
I seek knowledge.
I ask questions.
I explore and wonder.
I create.

Brave

I am honest.
I am independent.
I have high expectations.
I am resilient.
I am open to feedback.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER		
Wednesday 5 th - Wednesday 12 th	8:30am-9:00am 3:00pm-3:45pm	Book Fair Open
Thursday 6 th	Various times	2026 Prep Transition 2026 Leadership Speeches
Friday 7 th	All day	Blast Cricket- selected students (Excursion)
Tuesday 11 th	Various times	P-6 Stomp Dance Co. Incursion
Wednesday 12 th	9:00am-12:00pm 5:00pm-7:00pm	5/6 STEM (Incursion) Spring Picnic in the Bushland
Thursday 13 th	All day	Curriculum Day (no students at school- OSHC OPEN- bookings required)
Friday 14 th	All day	Professional Practice Day (no students at school- OSHC OPEN- bookings required)
Tuesday 18 th	8:15am-3:30pm	Grade 2 Kyabram Fauna Park Excursion
Wednesday 19 th	Various times	2026 Prep Transition
Thursday 27 th	Various times	2026 Prep Transition
DECEMBER		
Thursday 4 th	2:30pm-3:30pm 3:30pm-4:45pm	Junior School Disco (P-2) Senior School Disco (3-6)
Monday 8 th	TBC	5/6 Movie Day
Tuesday 9 th	9:30am-11:00am	Statewide Transition Day
Tuesday 16 th	TBC	Grade 6 Graduation
Friday 19 th	9:00am-1:30pm	Last Day of Term 4- Early Finish

Reminders:

- 'No hat, no play'
-Spare hats available at the office for \$12.
- Subway Lunch Orders
-Please note that the cut-off time for Subway orders has changed to **8:00am on Friday mornings**. Please ensure your orders are placed through www.canteenhub.com.au by this time.
- Lost Property
-A reminder to check the large tub of lost property near the Quad entrance regularly for any lost property items (uniforms/drink bottles/lunchboxes). Smaller lost property items can also be found on display in the office.
-A reminder to also place ensure your child's belongings are named so they can easily be returned to their class.

Quarry Hill Primary School, 25 Peel Street, Bendigo 3550
Email: quarry.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.quarryhillps.vic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5443 3537



ENROLMENTS & CLASS PLACEMENTS 2026

If your child will not be attending Quarry Hill Primary School in 2026, we would appreciate you letting us know as soon as possible. If there are any considerations for placements for student classes in 2026, please discuss with Anne Rochford or your child's teacher and then send in writing by **Friday Nov 14th**, to

Anne.Rochford@education.vic.gov.au

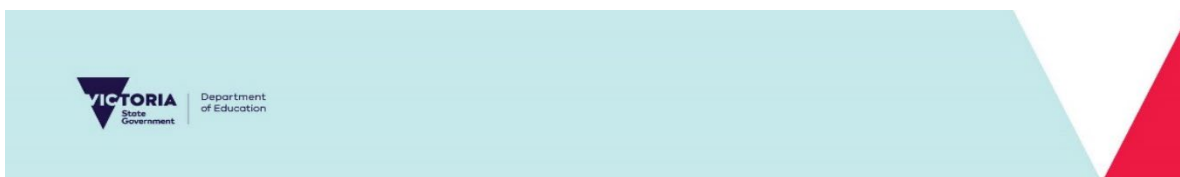
Please note that it is not possible for parents to request specific teachers.

2026 BOOKLISTS AND CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

2026 Booklists and Contribution information has been sent home with each student.

Orders for booklists need to be completed online, with all instructions included on the sheet. Booklists completed online by Friday 12th December will be delivered to the school before the end of term. Booklists submitted after this date will be delivered to the school in January. Further details regarding collection will be communicated through Compass and the Newsletter.

Any questions regarding the booklist or contributions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



Changes to digital device use

From 2027, the Victorian Government is introducing changes to the use of digital devices for students from Prep to Grade 6.

Under the new guidelines, schools:

- will no longer invite families to purchase or bring their own digital devices to use at school for Prep to Grade 6
- will follow new recommended digital device times, including minimal device time for Prep to Grade 2; and a maximum of 90 minutes per day for grades 3 to 6.

These changes are intended to support families by reducing cost-of-living pressures. They will also support students by reducing screen-time which can reduce the risk of eye strain, sedentary behaviour, and reduced peer interaction. These reforms complement Victoria's nation-leading mobile phone restrictions, ensuring an integrated approach to addressing digital distraction and the inappropriate use of technology.

What this means for our school

From 2027 onwards, our school will cease the current Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for students in Grades 3–6. In alignment with Department of Education guidelines, students will have access to a bank of shared, school-owned devices to support their learning. These devices will be available for classroom use as needed and scheduled by classroom teachers.

Students who have been using a personal device prior to 2027 may continue to bring it to school; however, the use of all digital devices will follow the new recommended device use times.

Students with disability who require a digital device as a reasonable adjustment are exempt from these changes.

These adjustments are designed to support families by reducing cost-of-living pressures and ensuring a balanced approach to technology use and screen time in the classroom.

You can read more about the changes on the department's website: [Digital Learning: Policy](#).

Quarry Hill Primary School, 25 Peel Street, Bendigo 3550
Email: quarry.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au
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Our Book Fair is being held in November in our Library. Students can purchase a wide range of books, stationery, and posters, and enter into the competitions that will be running.

Starting from Wednesday 5th November, and running through until Wednesday 12th November, the Book Fair will be open each day from 8:30am-9:00am, and from 3:00pm-3:45pm.

Students will have the opportunity to browse the book fair before it opens and can take home a wish list that parents/carers can then make payment from.

Purchases can also be made at the Book Fair (Cash and EFT will be available).

Instructions for online payment:

1. Go to the website: <https://parentpayments.scholastic.com.au/BookFairs>
2. Enter our school's name and press the search button
3. Select our school
4. Enter your details and the total value of the books you wish to pre-pay for.
5. Complete the Pre-payment Form (distributed out to all students), including the receipt number and amount paid. **This form must be returned to the school during the Book Fair.**

Date _____ Time _____

Place _____

Scholastic Book Fair Pre-Payment

Your child's school is having a Scholastic Book Fair. Your child will bring home their wish list of titles they have discovered at the Fair. We encourage you to discuss the Book Fair and their wish list choices with your child. Once you have agreed which items you will purchase you can pre-pay for those titles by completing the following steps.

1 List the titles they are going to purchase from the fair.

Title	Price

2 Make a secure payment online by going to [scholastic.com.au/payment](https://parentpayments.scholastic.com.au/payment) or scanning the barcode below.*



* Please note a surcharge of 1% on all card payments.

Book Fair Payment

3 Complete the Payment Form including the receipt number and amount paid. This form needs to be returned to the school.

Receipt Number

Amount Paid

\$

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

School: _____

Suburb/State: _____

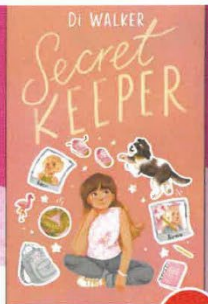
Daytime Tel: _____

THIS IS JUST A PRE-PAYMENT.

THIS FORM MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL DURING THE FAIR TO COLLECT YOUR BOOKS

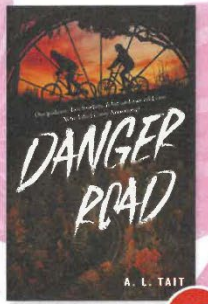


Every BOOK equals RESOURCES for our school.



SECRET KEEPER \$12

Neil and Eden have been best friends forever, but will a new girl and a secret come between them?
100144371 | PB NOVEL | AGES 10+



DANGER ROAD \$13

Two brothers try to solve a cold case murder mystery in their small town.
100145280 | PB NOVEL | AGES 10+



BESTIES CANDY DIARY \$18

Packed with activities for you and your BFF. Includes 2 gummi bear BFF necklaces.
100141770 | ACTIVITY BOOK | AGES 8+



BENDIGO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHINESE LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2025

On Saturday, 25 October 2025, the Bendigo Primary School Chinese Language Competition was held at the Language Centre at Bendigo Senior Secondary College. Over 60 students from primary schools across the Bendigo region participated in group singing, solo singing, and speech competitions. Many parents and siblings came along to support and celebrate the students' performances.

Quarry Hill Primary School's finalists –

Eleanor J: Speech Macy D: Group Singing Anika E: Group Singing

Elsie C: Group Singing; Speech Tola M: Solo Singing Ollie C: Speech

– proudly represented our school in the competition. Their commitment, courage, and the many hours they spent practicing and preparing are truly admirable and worth celebrating.

Congratulations to

Tola M – *1st Place, Grades 3 & 4 Solo Singing*

Macy D, Anika E, and Elsie C – *2nd Place, Grades 3 & 4 Group Singing*

Elsie C – *3rd Place, Grades 3 & 4 Speech*



WRITERS WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, the 21st of October, Amy Doak, a local author, met with us writers (some grade fours, fives, and sixes) for an incursion. She taught us tips on writing engaging murder mystery stories. She also gave us tips for our stories we had been writing recently too. We had to make a plot for a new story as a group, deciding on what would happen, where in the school, and who would be involved. Overall, it was a very fun incursion, and we (Quinn and Jack) would do it again if we could.

Quinn and Jack

Grade 4 Writer's Workshop Highlights

Elsie: Definitely how Amy described things and she puts fun into the lesson.

Harriet: How to write really good stories in the first person.

Tola: I really liked how Amy taught us how to stage out writing a mystery novel.

Grace: Amy helped us write a murder mystery by playing a problem solving game.

Olivia: J: We got to dress up as the characters in the murder mystery we had to solve.

Darcy: I loved how she introduced us to a new style of writing murder mysteries, I really liked it.





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



KIND		
Sybill H	Room 11	For consistently showing kindness and respect towards others.
Addison H	Room 5	For always showing kindness to her classmates.
Matilda S	Room 2	For showing kindness by welcoming new students, making them feel included.
Ywa Hay W	Room 2	For creating a wonderful Trick or Treat surprise for her teacher!
CURIOUS		
Ari C	Room 9	For writing a narrative with a beginning, middle and end.
Elsie C	Room 13	For participating in the Chinese Language Competition on 25 th October 2025.
Ollie C	Room 10	For participating in the Chinese Language Competition on 25 th October 2025.
Macy D	Room 12	For participating in the Chinese Language Competition on 25 th October 2025.
Anika E	Room 12	For participating in the Chinese Language Competition on 25 th October 2025.
Eleanor J	Room 17	For always being ready to learn and being a positive example to others.
Eleanor J	Room 17	For participating in the Chinese Language Competition on 25 th October 2025.
Tala K	Room 13	For improving her Mental Maths score and exit pass score. Super engaged learning Tala!
Ollie L	Room 6	For challenging himself to complete class activities and sharing his thoughts in class.
Tola M	Room 13	For participating in the Chinese Language Competition on 25 th October 2025.
Billy M	Room 8	For doing amazing writing. Keep up the great work, Billy!
Brielle P	Room 5	For confidently sharing her interesting wonderings.
Chloe T	Room 11	For always being engaged, eager to learn and ready to share during Literacy.
Max Z	Room 7	For independently transitioning to new tasks without being asked or reminded.
BRAVE		
Stephen E	Room 17	For continuing to push yourself during your Maths extensions group.
Kai F	Room 1	For having a positive start to Grade 1 at Quarry Hill.
Harry G	Room 16	For working hard on his independent writing.
Josh K	Room 12	For setting high expectations and taking pride in the quality of his work.

PAWPALS





Spotlight on Teaching and Learning: *InitialLit*



This week we will focus on our amazing Literacy program in Grades Prep, One, and Two: InitialLit.

WHY DID WE CHOOSE INITIALIT?

At QHPS, we are committed to giving every child the strongest possible start in reading and writing. That's why we use InitialLit.

InitialLit is an evidence-based literacy program designed for whole-class instruction. This means that all students from Prep to Grade 2 learn together through carefully structured lessons that build skills step by step, from phonics (how letters and sounds work together) to comprehension and spelling.



We chose InitialLit because it's backed by extensive research and proven results. It reflects our belief in explicit, systematic instruction, making sure every child receives clear, consistent teaching and the support they need to succeed.

DECODABLE TEXTS

These are early reading books that use the phonics children have already learned in class. Decodable texts help our students apply their phonics skills in reading situations. This helps build confident and fluent readers.

FIND OUT MORE

If you are interested in finding out more, please have a look at MultiLit's website:
<https://multilit.com/>

PHONICS

Phonics is about learning the relationship between letters and sounds e.g. knowing that 'm' makes the /m/ sound like in mat.

This matters because understanding phonics helps children "decode" words when reading and spell them correctly when writing. It's a key building block for confident, fluent readers.



EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

Teachers clearly explain and model each new skill before children practise it themselves. Nothing is left to guesswork.

This ensures every child knows exactly what they're learning and how to apply it. This helps all students to make steady progress.



LESSONS

Each InitialLit lesson includes a mix of phonics, reading, spelling, and comprehension activities. Students learn new sounds and words through explicit teaching, practise with decodable texts, and develop understanding through discussion and writing. Lessons are structured, engaging, and designed to build strong, confident readers from the ground up.



Protect your child's privacy online

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child manage their personal information, online identity, and the content they share. Thinking of posting a photo of your child? It's worth pausing to consider what might be revealed. Photos and videos can unintentionally share more than you realise - like school uniforms, locations, or daily routines.

Here are a few simple ways to protect your child's privacy online:

1. Check for identifying details before sharing images or videos. Is your child's school, sports team, or location visible?
2. Have open conversations with your child about when it's okay to take and share photos, videos, or other content.
3. Involve your child in the decision-making. It's a great opportunity to model consent and build their digital literacy and confidence.



Term 4, 2025

eSafety parents and carers webinars

Social media age restrictions explained – a guide for parents

From 10 December 2025, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account. Join our 30-minute information session to understand the changes. [Learn more about this webinar.](#)

The changing face of cyberbullying: Protecting your child

Cyberbullying is evolving, with the use of AI-powered tactics, coded emoji language, and the covert manipulation that many adults may miss. This 45-minute webinar helps parents spot the signs, build support at home and guide children on how to respond and stay safe. It's suitable for parents and carers of primary and high school students. [Learn more about this webinar.](#)

Term 4 (AEDT): 29 October, 12:30pm

Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into secondary school

This 45-minute webinar explores the social pressures, peer influences, and technological challenges young people face as they transition into secondary school. It also offers practical strategies for navigating online friendships and connections to help minimise negative experiences. It's suitable for parents and carers of children in upper primary school (ages 11 to 12) and Year 7. [Learn more about this webinar.](#)

Term 4 (AEDT): 18 November, 12:30pm

Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online

Parental controls can be a useful addition to the strategies you use to help protect your child online. This 45-minute webinar covers the types of controls available, and how to use them alongside other online safety measures. It's suitable for parents and carers of primary and high school students. [Learn more about this webinar.](#)

Term 4 (AEDT): 6 November, 12:30pm

For more information or to register for FREE webinars visit
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>



Term 4 2025 Bendigo Dads Playgroup!



Playgroup is a wonderful place to bond, relax, connect with other families and create memories. Join us for lots of play opportunities, with a variety of activities that foster development and happy faces!

October: Sat 11th

November: Sat 8th and Sat 22nd

December: Sat 6th

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am

Strathdale Community Centre

155 Crook Street, Strathdale, 3550

Around the back underneath the hall

In good weather we may be at the playground.

For more information visit:

www.facebook.com/groups/manprams

www.facebook.com/bendigodads

We welcome dads and male role models with 0-5 year olds. Please bring snacks and water bottle for your little one.

