



*Bell Primary School is a caring community that fosters a love of learning in young people. At school and beyond, students are confident to think critically and empowered to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. We are grounded by our school values of **resilience, creativity, curiosity, collaboration and respect**.*

Bell Primary School is a Child Safe School. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, and have zero tolerance for child abuse.

Bell Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land the school is located upon, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



From our Principal:

Welcome Back

The school sprang back to life on Wednesday when families rolled into the school grounds just before 9.00am. The first few days have had a positive and calm vibe for the vast majority of our students.

A warm welcome to a few new students transitioning from other schools: Pablo in 1C, siblings Ake in 3B and Johny in 5C. We have one returning student, Isabella in 4A. There are 48 new Prep families beginning their Bell PS journey, with half coming yesterday and the rest attending today. Our students are always amazing at helping newcomers settle in and I am sure new parents and carers will feel part of the Bell community quickly if we all start up conversations with some new faces in the yard.

The focus for the first weeks is the Start-Up program, with teachers working with the students to establish learning routines and expectations based on our school values, and spend time on relationship and team building activities.

TeamKids

The TeamKids crew have set up in the gym/hall foyer and are doing their best to make the children feel comfortable with the new educators. Leading the crew are **Chivi** and **Esther** who will be there daily, with additional staff attending as numbers vary each day. Their student/staff ratio is 1:15 so there are always plenty of helpers around. Lots of interesting furniture and equipment has been set up. The program will evolve as staff get to know the children better, then accommodate their collective interests, passions and individual quirks.

A reminder that TeamKids have organised a coffee van between 7-9am this Monday morning, **3 February**, for anyone from the Bell community to simply pop in, say 'hello' and get a free coffee, hot chocolate, etc.



Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Just like previous years, there will be a range of additional activities and programs beyond the core curriculum to accommodate the diverse interests, talents and abilities of Bell children. These include:

- The Rock Band and Senior Vocal Ensemble, with auditions starting next week (see page 5 for details)
- Lunchtime clubs will be offered throughout the year and will start in a few weeks' time once the regular classroom and school routines have been established
- Special programs such as State Schools Spectacular, Tournament of Minds and debating competitions will be an option for the older students
- A range of external providers will continue offering lessons and other fun activities with musical instruments, dancing and singing, coding and sports games, specifically SoccerX. Look out for various advertisements in this edition and subsequent newsletters throughout the year
- In Terms 2 and 3, TeamKids have organised a lunchtime robotics club which I am sure will be well received. More details later this term for that new activity.

Uniform

A reminder to families about our uniform expectations in that our colours are navy blue and white, and the Bell logo is preferred, but not essential on all tops. There are plenty of options for your child to choose from with no gender specific expectations on any of the items. Some *non-uniform items* that we are already seeing in the first few days are:

- Crocs that are not compliant at schools for safety reasons; we need to have students in fully enclosed shoes that are suitable for physical activity in classes and in the yard at break times
- Baseball style caps that are not broad brimmed and not school colours
- Hoodies of any sort and other tops that are not the nominated blue and white Bell colours. The exception for hoodies will be the special Grade 6 tops with their names and Year 6 emblem when they arrive.
- Black shorts, when they should be navy blue.

Staffing for 2025

We were fortunate to confirm all staffing positions advertised well before the end of the year and all five new staff attended some planning sessions late in Term 4 to help us all 'hit the ground running' this week. An official welcome is in order for the following teachers:

Athena Vounisios in Grade 1B, who was a relief teacher at Bell PS and other schools late last year, has been an OSHClub employee at other services, and has been an Education Support staff member at other schools.

Elvira Ralston-Ellis sharing with Maria Seneca in 2C, joins us after teaching at Fitzroy PS for the past two years.

Jackie Snowdon in 3A is familiar to some, after completing her final university placement with Gab in Prep last year.

Lauryn Veli is also familiar to many students, having undertaken a special placement at Bell PS this year since moving home from the USA where she taught for a number of years.

Julia Scarmozzino is our new Art teacher and will be familiar to some Grade 2s as she also completed her final placement here. She was an educator at Gloworm Studios with a background as a childcare educator, and is a freelance illustrator/artist.

Maria Seneca has returned from family leave and will be familiar to some as she has many years' experience here as a Grade 1 and 2 teacher, a past team leader and more recently, a relief teacher.

School Crossing Updates

Julie, our Crossing Supervisor on busy Gilbert Road, has advised she will not be on duty this Monday morning, 3 February. Please discuss this with your child/children if they usually cross Gilbert Road without a parent.

Mark, our Oakover Road Crossing Supervisor, will be absent between 10–24 February but we have been informed by Darebin Council there will be a replacement.

There is a shortage of Crossing Supervisors, so see page 12 if you would like further information, or know someone who might be interested. According to one Supervisor, the pay is better than you think!

David Twite
Principal

From our Assistant Principal:

Grade Level Information Nights

Year 1-6 grade level information nights will be conducted in Week 3 of this term (Monday 10 - Friday 14 February).

Information nights are an opportunity to begin the establishment of home-school partnerships at the beginning of the school year with your child's grade level team. These nights provide parents/carers with an understanding of the learning foci, teaching and learning approaches and extra-curricular events and activities for the year. Other important administration reminders will be sent to families via Compass today and will be available on the school website for future reference.

More information regarding the dates, times and locations for each year level will be communicated early next week via a separate Compass Newsfeed. We are currently in the process of exploring options for hybrid meetings (in person and online) and hope to be able to offer this for future sessions.

*For **Prep** families, their information night will be conducted in Week 6 on Tuesday 4 March.*

Where parents/carers are unable to attend the information session, the PowerPoint presented by the team will be sent out via Compass for access following the session.

Getting to Know You Meetings

On *Tuesday 11 March*, **Year 1-6** teachers will be conducting 1:1 Getting to Know You Meetings. These meetings facilitate individual time for parents/carers to share information about their child with this year's classroom teacher/s and are an important opportunity for you to:

- meet and get to know your child's teacher(s)
- help your child's teacher(s) understand more about your child
- exchange information to support your child's learning, social and emotional needs
- make plans with the teacher(s) about how you can both support your child
- continue to strengthen the crucial home-school partnership

These meetings, whilst about your child as a learner, are not designed to give detailed progress reports of student achievement given the early scheduling.

A reminder that *Tuesday 11 March* is a Curriculum Day and students are not required to attend school on this day, however they are welcome to attend their scheduled Getting to Know You Meeting. Staff will spend the majority of this day involved in professional learning before undertaking Getting to Know You Meetings between 2:30-7:00pm.

If your child has an Individual Education Plan, your child's teacher will contact you to arrange a combined Getting to Know You/Individual Education Plan meeting.

Prep teachers will be conducting Getting to Know You Meetings in Week 3 on *Wednesday 12 February*.

Prep families will be sent information via Compass early next week regarding times, as well as information about how to book a meeting.

Emma Heywood
Assistant Principal

2025 Calendar:

January

Fri 31: **Prep Group B** commence
 Fri 31: Assembly @ 2.50pm
 Fri 31: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15pm

February

Mon 3: **All Preps** commence
 Wed 5: **Prep** Assessment Day #1 – no prep classes
 Fri 7: Assembly @ 2.50
 Fri 7: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15
 Mon 10-Fri14: **Gr 1-6** Information Nights tba
 Wed 12: **Prep** Assessment Day #2 – no prep classes
 Wed 12: **Prep** Getting to Know You Meetings
 Fri 14: Assembly @ 2.50
 Fri 14: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15
 Mon 17: **Gr 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C** Swimming Program #1
 Mon 17: Scholastic Book Club Orders Close 9pm
 Tue 18: **Gr 4B, 3A, 3B, 3C** Swimming Program #1
 Wed 19: **Prep** Assessment Day #3 – no prep classes
 Wed 19: **Gr 4B, 3A, 3B, 3C** Swimming Program #2
 Thu 20: **Gr 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C** Swimming Program #2
 Fri 21: Assembly @ 2.50
 Fri 21: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15
 Mon 24: **Gr 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C** Swimming Program #3
 Tue 25: **Gr 4B, 3A, 3B, 3C** Swimming Program #3
 Wed 26: **Prep** Assessment Day #4 – no prep classes
 Wed 26: **Gr 4B, 3A, 3B, 3C** Swimming Program #4
 Thu 27: **Gr 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C** Swimming Program #4
 Fri 28: Assembly @ 2.50
 Fri 28: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15

March

Mon 3: **Gr 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C** Swimming Program #5
 Tue 4: **Gr 4B, 3A, 3B, 3C** Swimming Program #5
 Tue 4: **Prep** Information Night
 Wed 5: **Gr 4B, 3A, 3B, 3C** Swimming Program #6
 Thu 6: **Gr 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C** Swimming Program #6
 Fri 7: Assembly @ 2.50pm
 Fri 7: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15pm

Mon 10: *Labour Day Public Holiday*

Tue 11: *Curriculum Day #2 (Pupil-Free)*

Tue 11: **Gr 1-6** Getting to Know You Meetings

Fri 14: Assembly @ 2.50pm

Fri 14: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15pm

Fri 21: Assembly @ 2.50pm

Fri 21: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15pm

Fri 28: Assembly @ 2.50pm

Fri 28: Second Hand Uniform Shop Open @ 3.15pm

April

Fri 4: *Final day Term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal*

Tue 22: *First day Term 2*

Thu 24: *Curriculum Day #3 (Pupil-Free)*

Fri 25: *ANZAC Day Public Holiday*

May

June

Fri 6: *Curriculum Day #4 (Pupil-Free)*

Mon 9: *King's Birthday Public Holiday*

July

Fri 4: *Final day Term 2 – 2.30pm dismissal*

Mon 21: *First Day Term 3*

August

September

Fri 19: *Final day Term 3 – 2.30pm dismissal*

October

Mon 6: *First day Term 4*

November

Mon 3: *Common Professional Practice Day (Pupil-Free)*

Tue 4: *Melbourne Cup Public Holiday*

December

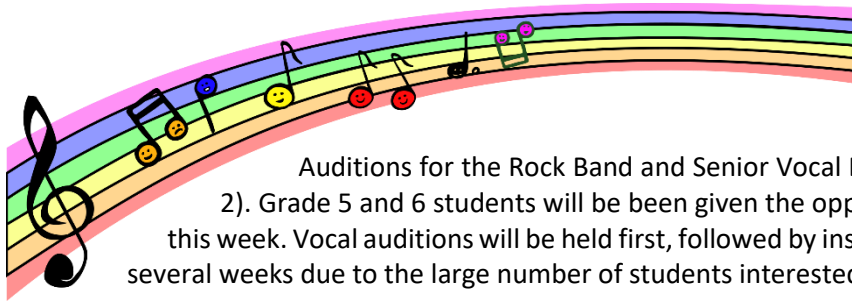
Fri 19: *Final day Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal*

2025 Daily Structure:

8.45	Yard Duty Starts
8.50-9.00	Get ready for class
9.00-9.50	Session 1
9.50-10.40	Session 2
10.40-11.30	Session 3
11.30-11.40	1st Eating Time in the classroom
11.40-12.20	1 st Play Time
12.20-1.10	Session 4
1.10-2.00	Session 5
2.00-2.10	2nd Eating Time in the classroom
2.10-2.40	2 nd Play Time
2.40-3.30	Session 6
3.30	Home Time
3.45	Yard Duty Ends

From the Music Room:

MUSIC ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS 2025



Auditions for the Rock Band and Senior Vocal Ensemble will commence next week (Week 2). Grade 5 and 6 students will be given the opportunity to sign up during their Music class this week. Vocal auditions will be held first, followed by instrumental auditions. These usually run over several weeks due to the large number of students interested.

I have spoken in detail with Grade 5 and 6 students about the process and expectations, should they decide to audition.

- Students can audition by singing or playing an instrument (or both).
- They should prepare one (or two) short piece/s (approx. 30-45 seconds per piece) that showcases the best of what they can do.
- Two questions will also be asked: *Why do you want to be in an ensemble? What strengths can you bring to the group?* This gives students the opportunity to add anything else they want me to know (e.g. musical/dance/drama passion they might have, music lessons undertaken, songwriting they might be doing, confidence or personal goal they are working on, etc).

I will endeavour to inform students which day their audition will be held so they can be prepared or bring their own instrument if need be.

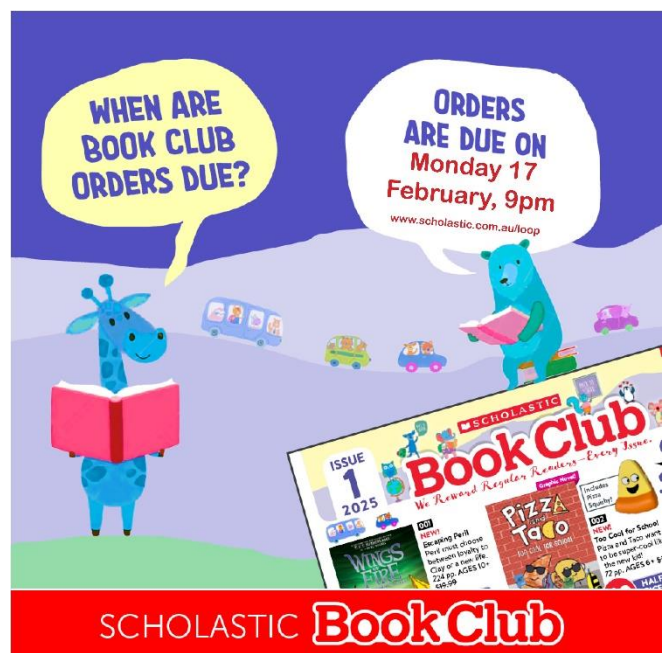
I encourage all interested students to audition as it is a great experience, regardless of the outcome. I look forward to hearing all the musical talent that Bell has to offer in the coming weeks!

Ms S

Book Club News:

Book Club is back for 2025! Catalogues will be sent home soon with the eldest child in the family. Just a few reminders and helpful tips for new Bell families:

- All ordering and payments are done securely online - **visit www.scholastic.com.au/loop to order.**
- Books are delivered straight to your child's classroom - Bell buzzes on book delivery day!
- Bell Primary gets 15% of the order total to spend on new books for the school library. So far, the school has received over \$13,000 in new library books.
- **Participating in Book Club is completely voluntary.**
- Orders for Term 1 are due by **9pm on Monday 17 February 2025**



From the Office #1

Office Hours: 8.00am – 4.30pm

Lu Paglia, Business Manager:	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	School Council, Finance, Fundraising
Jo Taylor, Finance Administration:	Mon, Wed, Fri	Events, Payments
Tania Levens, Administration:	Tue – Fri	Newsletter, Facilities, OHS
Jessie Storm, Student Administration:	Mon – Fri	Enrolments, Medical, Compass

☺ Please email Newsletter items directly to Tania at bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au ☺

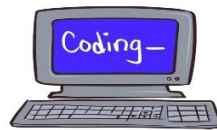
Bell PS Uniforms

1. **NEW** Bell PS uniforms can always be purchased from PSW.
2. **SECOND-HAND** Uniforms can be purchased from our Second Hand Uniform Shop run by a fantastic parent volunteer once per week, starting again today. Don't forget your gold coins – **no credit or credit card facility is available.**

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please see the Community tab on our website for details on activities offered both after school and/or during school time in Room 18 + 19 – please make direct contact with the provider:

Keyboard : Guitar : Violin : Ukelele : Singing : Dancing : Computer Programming : Soccer



Lost Property

Please feel free to check the lost property racks any time, as often as you like, for anything you may recognise. Lost Property can be found in the corridor adjacent to the Art Room.

GOING ON A HOLIDAY? UPDATE COMPASS IN ADVANCE!

If you have a planned holiday coming up during term time, don't forget to enter your child's absence on Compass **before** you leave, especially if you are travelling outside of Australia as the Compass app is inaccessible from most overseas locations.



The start and end date of an attendance note can be edited to cover the duration of your trip so that you don't need to create multiple entries.

School staff are required to follow up on consecutive unexplained absences, so adding a reason onto Compass in advance ensures no follow up is needed.



Thanks in advance for your help!

For Bell Students - External Providers:



COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CLUB!

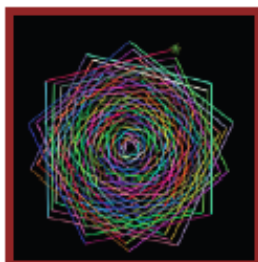
@ Bell Primary School

In a world where technology touches every aspect of our lives, it is crucial that our children understand how it works. To accomplish this objective, there is an exciting coding club running at the school.



DEVELOP SKILLS

- Creativity
- Logical thinking
- Problem solving

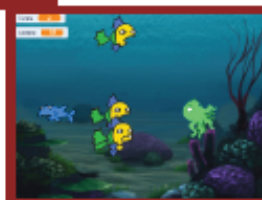


LEARN

- Computer Science Concepts
- Fundamentals of programming
- Loops, Events, Randomness and more

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Scratch
- Python
- Javascript
- .. and many more



MAKE

- Games
- Web pages
- Apps

Digimaker structured program runs each term and is charged on a per-term basis. Students to bring their own device for the lesson.

9 WEEK TERM PROGRAM

Program for **Term 1 2025** is as follows:

Year levels: 3 to 6

Term Fee: \$315 incl GST

AFTER SCHOOL

3:40pm – 4:40pm

BATCH

Thursdays 6th Feb to 3rd Apr 2025

Fill out the form online by
Thursday 19th Dec 2024



www.digimaker.com.au/enrol



HOLIDAY E-LEARNING PROGRAM

2 HOURS OF FUN FILLED CODING
FULLY SUPERVISED OVER ZOOM
(5 DAYS A WEEK!)

<https://www.digimaker.com.au/events/school-holiday-coding-program/>

TERM 1 AT

Bell Primary School

sports X
sports for better minds



SOCCER



EVERY FRIDAY 3.30 - 4.30pm

Starting February 7th [9-week program]

\$151

FUN-BASED | FULLY INCLUSIVE | FOR ALL ABILITIES 😊

- The program is available for students from Prep - Year 6.
- Sessions will be run by qualified coaches who hold WWCC.
- Children will be split into groups according to age.

CONTACT

aarono@sports-x.com.au
sc@sports-x.com.au

REGISTRATION

Scan QR code
or visit
sports-x.com.au





Fun–Key Music – Classes for Kids

- * Develop correct singing and breathing skills
- * Learn choreographed dances
- * Play drama games
- * Learn microphone techniques
- * Sing a mix of modern songs, old favourites & show tunes
- * Classes for boys and girls aged 5 - 12 years

Bell Primary Students

When: Tuesday afternoons (during school term)

Time: Door is open from 3:30pm, class begins at 3:45pm

Location: Room 19 (via Gate 5)

FREE TRIAL FOR NEW STUDENTS

FIRST CLASS - TUESDAY 4th FEB 2025

CONTACT:

0417 008 074

rachel.chetcuti@heydeeho.com.au

www.heydeeho.com.au

WELCOME ABOARD



We strive to support families and add VALUE to every day. Our child-centred programs excite, engage and entertain children before school, after school and throughout the school holidays.

Let the fun begin...

HOW TO REGISTER?

Head to teamkids.com.au/register
Allow 10-15 min to set up your account.



To make a booking, we require the entire registration process to be completed, this includes all emergency contacts, payment details and medical forms.

HOW TO BOOK?

1. Sign in to your TeamKids account.
2. Select the following: » Add/Change bookings » Care Type » Child's Name » Date (it will turn green).
3. Click "Next".
4. Double check your bookings and click "Confirm Changes".



CHECK OUT THE TEAMKIDS FUN!



@teamkidsaustralia



@teamkidsaustralia



“ My daughter could not wait to go back to TeamKids the next day! ” Danielle



WHY YOU'LL LOVE TEAMKIDS



EPIC CLUBS + EVENTS



SAFE + FUN ENVIRONMENT



FUN + ENGAGING EDUCATORS



YUMMY FOOD

See you soon!

NEED HELP?

Our friendly Customer Service team are only a phone call away and happy to assist.



teamkids.com.au | 1300 035 000

See you soon!

AWESOME PARTIES
YUMMY SNACKS
HOLIDAY FUN
EPIC EVENTS
FUN CLUBS

BEFORE, AFTER + VACATION CARE

1300 035 000

BOOK IN & PLAY

Team Kids

= SCREEN FREE FUN



Don't forget to register!



teamkids.com.au/register

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY!



School Crossing Positions now available

the place to live



Are you ready for a new challenge?

We currently have multiple opportunities available to become a School Crossing Supervisor on a part-time and casual basis.

Enjoy working part-time or on casual basis to fit your desired lifestyle!

School Crossing Supervisors play a vital role in helping our local students and families get to and from the school safely.

The times are 1 hour in the morning and 50 minutes in the afternoon, generally between 8-9am and 3-4pm.

To apply or for more information, head to darebin.vic.gov.au/School-crossings

For further information please contact us at schoolcrossings@darebin.vic.gov.au or 8470 8888.

CITY OF DAREBIN

274 Gower Street, Preston
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877
E mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
darebin.vic.gov.au



National Relay Service
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.



Speak Your Language
T 8470 8470

العربية नेपाली हिंदी Español
繁體中文 Italiano বাংলা اردو
Ελληνικά Македонски Somali Tiếng Việt





JOIN WITH FRIENDS PLAY TOGETHER

Join Woolworths Cricket Pop-Up Blast
For girls aged 5-10

Darebin Falcons Women's Sports Club
4 Thursdays @ 5.30pm

13, 20, 27 February, 6 March

WH Robinson Reserve, Goodwin Street, Preston

Cost: \$35

Expression of Interest via QR code

Contact - cricket@falcons.org.au



dadfit



DADFIT

FREE FIVE-WEEK PROGRAM

Starting Wednesday Feb 19
Thornbury



ENROL NOW FOR 2025

Brand-new, purpose-built centre designed with children's learning and development in mind

Reggio Emilia inspired learning programs that support children from 6 weeks to 5 years

3- & 4-year-old Government Funded Kindergarten Programs

ENQUIRE NOW FOR 1 WEEK FREE CARE*

*T&C's Apply

(03) 9088 5077

1/60 High Street, Preston VIC 3072

KARATE

TEENS! karate
ACCELERATED program

YOUTH! program
KARATE

Just
for
kicks! program

OKUKAN DOJO
Shito-Ryu Karate-Do

Instructor:
Sensei Sandra Contreras

- Teens (16-19 years)
- YOUTH (10-15 years)
- Just for Kicks! (7-10 years)

Top quality instruction
KATA & KUMITE

Limited places.
Book a free trial class!

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TRIAL NOW

