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www.bellps.vic.edu.au be Principal: David Twite

Assistant Principal: Emma Heywood

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.



Phone: 9480 5622

From our Principal:

Community Feedback Forum

Thank you to the people who completed the survey to help inform the Pre-Review Self-Evaluation (PSRE) as part of our upcoming review of the current School Strategic Plan (SSP). As a final opportunity for contribution, we will be holding an *online* meeting on *Wednesday 13 August* at *7.00pm* to further engage parents/carers in the self-evaluation process. A Compass Newsfeed will be sent to all families on the day containing a link to this meeting.

This Forum will be facilitated by Leadership and members of School Council as an opportunity for parents/carers to provide feedback on:

- Highlights/successes and enablers of success over the course of the SSP;
- Significant improvements over the four years;
- Areas that still need to improve and barriers that have limited success over the course of the SSP.

As key stakeholders, parent/carer perspectives are important to provide a well-rounded insight for the PSRE. We would appreciate your attendance where possible.

2026 Enrolments

As we are well into planning for next year, predicted numbers which are directly related to funding are the crucial element for all decisions about grade structures and the learning/wellbeing programs we can offer. Future enrolments are made up of four aspects:

- New Prep families that we are currently processing applications for, with a strong interest from around the area.
- Existing families who will enrol their next child; we believe Jessie has followed up with most or all of those enrolments. If not, please contact her ASAP.
- New families in other year levels who are wishing to transfer to Bell PS, which is usually a moderate number.
- And finally, existing families who are leaving Bell for any reason. Whilst these numbers are usually on the lower
 side, it is a number that is hard to predict. Therefore, in the coming months, if you are planning to leave the
 school, I urge you to advise the office as soon as there is a definitive plan to help us adjust our predicted numbers
 for 2026.

With a staffing shortage in the system and a sense that our overall numbers will be higher next year, the sooner we can sort out staffing requirements, the better outcomes for the school moving into next year.

Wear It Purple / Health and Human Development

One of my proudest Bell traditions is coming up soon with **Wear It Purple Day** scheduled for **Friday 29 August**. This day links perfectly with the Health and Human Development lessons that are currently being delivered in grades in age appropriate ways. This is one element of a comprehensive unit of work that has been supported for many years by ex-parent of Bell, Vanessa Hamilton. Vanessa is an expert in the areas of sexuality education and respectful relationships, and she recently provided some top-up professional learning for all staff to enable a comprehensive program to be delivered.

Wear It Purple Day at the end of August enables our community to show genuine support for rainbow families and the LGBTIQA+ community. This is a Bell tradition that I hope continues into the future until the time where such a focus is not required due to our society living in a truly inclusive way.

COLD VOICES PURPLES

David Twite, Principal

2025 Calendar:

August	
Fri 8:	Prep Swimming Program #2
Sun 10:	Scholastic Book Club Orders Close 9pm
Mon 11:	Gr6 Celebration of Learning
Mon 11:	Gr2 Swimming Program #5
Mon 12:	Gr2 Swimming Program #6 (final)
Wed 13:	Prep 101 Days of Learning
Wed 13:	Gr1 Swimming Program #5
Wed 13:	Pre-Review Self Evaluation Forum, 7pm, online
Thu 14:	Gr1 Swimming Program #6 (final)
Fri 15:	Prep Swimming Program #3
Fri 15:	VSSS Rehearsal #4
Fri 15:	Bell Trivia Night – Clubs or Cults!
Mon 18-W	/ed 20: Gr4 Camp Marysville
Wed 20:	Gr5 Sovereign Hill
Wed 20:	Prep Firefighter Visit #1
Fri 22:	Prep Swimming Program #4
Thu 28:	Gr1 Museum Excursion
Fri 29:	Prep Firefighter Visit #2
Fri 29:	Prep Swimming Program #5
Fri 29:	Wear It Purple Day
Septem	ber

September	
Mon 1-Fri 5:	Bell Book Week – 'Book an Adventure'
Mon 1:	Bell Book Week Parade, 9am, gym
Tue 2:	Gr1 + Gr2 Celebration of Learning
Wed 3:	Gr4 Celebration of Learning
Fri 5:	Prep Swimming Program #6 (final)
Tue 9:	Gr3 Sleepover Info Session, 5pm, online
Wed 10:	Gr3 Celebration of Learning
Thu 11:	VSSS Rehearsal #5
Fri 12:	VSSS Rehearsal #6
Fri 12	P-3 Mini-Athletics Carnival

Sat 13: Victorian State School Spectacular!!!

Tue 16: Gr6 Camp Info Session, 5pm, online

Wed 17: Prep Celebration of Learning

Thu 18: Gr3 Sleepover

Fri 19: Final day Term 3 – 2.30pm dismissal

Fri 19: Community Celebration for David's Retirement

2.30-4.00, details tba

October

Mon 6:	First day Term 4
Mon 6-Thu 9:	Gr6 Camp Jungai
Wed 15:	The Great Primary School Mystery, 6-7pm
Thu 16:	The Great Primary School Mystery, 6-7pm
Tue 21:	Gr5 Yarning Conference
Tue 21:	Gr3 BYOD Info Session, online
Fri 24:	International Day of Climate Action
Fri 31:	World Teacher's Day

November

Mon 3:	Common Professional Practice Day (Pupil-Free)
Tue 4:	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Fri 14:	Gr6 Coburg High School Excursion
Tue 18:	Gr5 Camp Info Session, 5pm, online

December

Mon 1-Wed 3: Gr5 Camp Anglesea
Wed 3: International Day of People with Disabilities
Tue 9: Statewide Gr6 to Yr7 Transition Day
Thu 11: Gr3-6 Swimming Carnival
Fri 12: Gr6 Luna Park Excursion
Thu 18: Gr6 Graduation Night
Fri 19: Final day Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal

Book Club
catalogues
were sent home
with the eldest
child in your
family recently.
Please use the
LOOP to order
online! (details
inside back
cover)



Book Club orders close on Sunday 10 August at 9.00pm

From the Office #1:

Office Hours: 8.00am – 4.30pm			
Lu Paglia, Business Manager:	School Council, Finance, Fundraising	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	
Jo Taylor, Finance Administration:	Events, Payments	Mon, Wed, Fri	
Tania Levens, Administration:	Newsletter, Facilities, OHS	Tue – Fri	
Jessie Storm, Student Administration:	Enrolments, Medical, Compass	Mon – Fri	

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

Update: SSB Use for School Activities

The Department has finalised the transfer of SSB funds to schools for allocation to events. Any <u>new</u> events will now <u>automatically</u> have SSB applied before you give consent, UNLESS you have notified Jo Taylor that you would like to save it for future Camp payment.

For existing events, please email Jo Taylor to allocate SSB for your child/ren.

We will distribute Family Statements shortly to advise families of their SSB balances, if any.

Please send all emails to bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au

TeamKids:

To enquire about enrolling your child/ren into TeamKids for Before or After School Care, or any Curriculum Day or Holiday Program, please make initial contact at either www.teamkids.com.au or 1300 035 000.

Bell PS Uniforms

- 1. NEW Bell PS uniforms can always be purchased from PSW.
- SECOND-HAND Uniforms can be purchased from our Second-Hand Uniform Shop (far side of the basketball court) run by two fantastic family volunteers twice per week Wednesday mornings around drop-off time and Friday afternoons from 3:15-3:45. Don't forget your gold coins no credit or credit card facility is available.

Late Arrivals, Early Departures + Authorised Pick-ups

Don't forget to come through the front office <u>before</u> going to the classroom for any late arrivals (after 9am) or early departures (before 3:30pm). Your child must be signed in/out on the Compass Kiosk and the corresponding card should be taken to give to your child's teacher, indicating that you have completed the arrival/departure process.

** CHILDREN ARRIVING LATE MUST BE WALKED TO THEIR CLASSROOM BY A PARENT OR CARER

If your child will be collected early for any reason by someone who is not their legal guardian, the school office must be informed in advance as your child cannot be signed out in these instances without authorisation from a parent/carer.

From the Office #2:

Extra-Curricular Activities

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

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













Working With Children Checks

Parents/carers who intend to participate in any volunteering with the school (eg reading, excursion support, etc) **must** hold a current Working With Children Check card. Even if you don't have your name down for any



volunteering on the immediate horizon, we strongly suggest applying for a WWCC as soon as possible- a Volunteer WWCC is free! List Bell Primary on your WWCC application and we will automatically receive a copy in the mail for our records, or you can supply your card to the front office for us to add to our parent/carer register. If you are a current VIT card holder, you can provide to the office in lieu of a WWCC.

NB- if you are volunteering with activities onsite that don't involve working directly with students (eg organising resources, fundraising stall set-up, etc), you must still hold a valid WWCC and supply it to the office.

Click here to apply for a WWCC.

<u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: All school volunteers must also have completed the OHS Volunteer Induction process to be able to volunteer. The fourth Induction Session is likely to be held late this term. Details will be advised via a Compass Newsfeed.

Lost Library Book Procedure

If your child has lost a school library book, please follow the steps below:

- 1. On the Qkr! app, select Bell Primary School -> Payments -> Lost library book
- 2. Make a payment of \$5 per lost book
- 3. Email a screenshot of your receipt and child's name to bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au
- 4. School staff will then remove the lost/overdue book from your child's library account



Head Lice



We've been told that head lice are going around again at the moment. We kindly request that all families check and treat their child/ren's hair if needed over the weekend so that we can help curb this issue as effectively as possible.

Could we also please request that students with mid-length/long hair have it tied up while at school to minimise opportunities for head lice to spread.

Students with live head lice must receive treatment before being able to return to school.

From the STEAM Room:

In STEAM last week, grade 1 and 2 students were learning about sound energy. We listened for the difference in pitch between the sounds made by a ukulele and a double bass, and closely observed the strings vibrating. We noticed a few things in particular; wider strings meant lower notes, as did longer ones, and the lower the pitch, the bigger the instrument! Students used their knowledge of vibrations to make their own string telephones – speaking into one end to make the string vibrate so their voices could be heard at the other.

Jack Fray STEAM Specialist









From the Grade 3 Team:

Grade 3 Excursion to the Melbourne Museum – Inquiry

On Wednesday 7 August, our Grade 3 students went on an exciting excursion to the Melbourne Museum. They explored a range of fascinating exhibitions including *Melbourne Story*, *First Peoples*, and *600 Million Years*. The students were curious and engaged as they discovered more about Melbourne's history, Aboriginal cultures, and the wonders of prehistoric life. Everyone had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on displays and activities.

Here's what some of the students had to say:

- "I loved looking at all the crystals in the 600 Million Years exhibit".
- "It was great wandering through the Forest Garden and looking at the creatures that live there".
- "I really enjoyed walking through the old house that was in the *Melbourne Story* exhibit".
- "It was a lot of fun sitting in the cinema from the olden days".
- "It was great watching the man from Samoa who did the fire dance".







From the Italian Room:

This week in Italian with the 1/2s...

Students explored the similarities and differences between the English and Italian alphabets. Our learning intention was to recognise that Italian and English share most of the same letters, while our success criteria focused on identifying different letter sounds and recognising which letters are omitted from the Italian alphabet.

We began each session with a cheerful "Buongiorno, Professoressa!" during roll call, helping students practise their Italian greetings and classroom routines.

The story *Zucchero Filato* was a central part of our learning this week. Students enjoyed revisiting the text and noticed that the alphabet used looked very familiar, sparking a discussion about the overlap between Italian and English letters. We paused to look at the text closely, asking: "Is that an Italian letter or an English one? What makes you say that?"

We also watched short clip with а Manu from Italy Made Easy l'alfabeto which https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF1nqqmXwew&t=37s reinforced letter recognition and pronunciation. Using both visual and auditory cues, students began identifying which letters are common across the two languages and which are unique.

On the whiteboard, we worked together to circle and then erase letters not found in the Italian alphabet. Students then completed a hands-on activity to consolidate their learning, gluing an Italian alphabet sheet into their learning books and copying the full English alphabet onto the next page for comparison.

Prompts supported students at all levels. Some revisited the question "What is the alphabet?", while others extended their thinking by exploring how many letters are found in the English version.

Here's a hand pronunciation guide from preply.com:

Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation
Α	رانح _م) ah	н	راجي ahk-kah	Q	رارکی koo
В	رار bee	1	راد <u>چ</u>	R	راج ehr-reh
С	رار chee	L	رام ehl-leh	S	راکم ehs-seh
D	رار dee	М	والمجر) ehm-meh	Т	رادگر) tee
E	رار (المحر)) eh	N	رام ehn-neh	U	رد کی
F	راجي ehf-feh	0	راد کر (اد کر	v	رادگر) voo, vee
G	رار gee	Р	رارک _{ر))} pee	z	راج tseh-tah

Grazie,

Professoressa Sam

From the Specialist Team:



The Specialist Award winners for this fortnight are...

6B!

They've been showing the school value of **Resilience** through their learning by taking on challenges and persisting with their goals. They have also worked together as a team to build their learning stamina.

Keep up the good work!

The Specialist Team (Josh, Professoressa Sam, Julia, Ms S and Jack)

From 2B – Bell PS History:

Last term, 2B students explored the history of our school for our Inquiry unit.

First, we looked to the PAST. In the olden days at Bell, report cards said "best" and "worst" readers. We used to have a motto "Ring True!". For the 60th Anniversary in 1988, they made a time capsule that we can open in 2028! Special thanks to Jessie, who helped the teachers get historical records from the haunted third floor.

Next, we celebrated Bell PS in the PRESENT. There are lots of exciting things happening at our school, such as sustainability projects (composting and recycling), new buildings (the gym) and wellbeing initiatives (BSEM). We celebrate and acknowledge Indigenous people a lot better than we used to. We love being at Bell!

Finally, we imagined 2B's Bell PS of the **FUTURE!** We will have a rainforest jungle, a museum/art gallery, a pet zoo, a gymnastics/circus arena, a kitchen garden, a skatepark, a pool (with a waterslide of course) and robots to help us learn. We included lots of flowers and rainbows and also added a door to anywhere! For fun, we built the school out of LEGO together.

We had lots of fun exploring the history of Bell PS. Thanks for reading!

Daniel and the 2B kids 😅













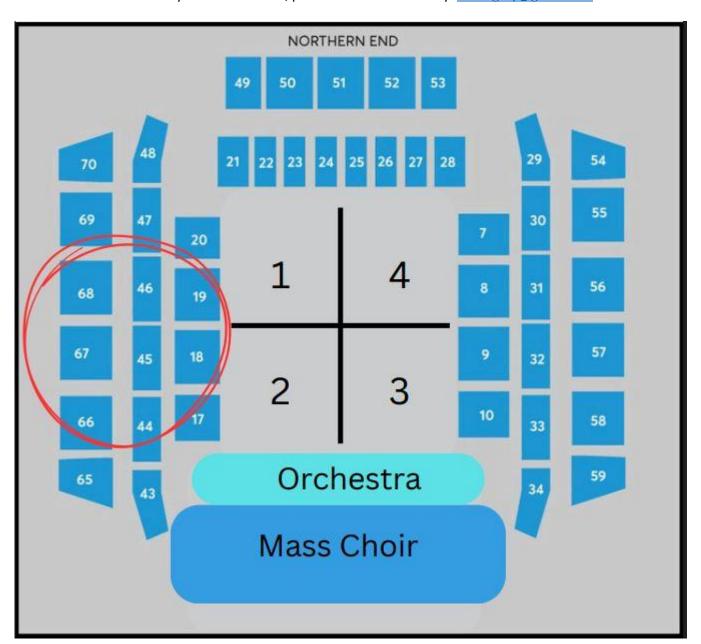
Victorian State School Spectacular Tickets!

Tickets for the 2025 Victorian State Schools Spectacular are now on sale through Ticketek! www.ticketek.com.au/spectacular

If you are keen to come along to support our students and see what all the hype is about, here are the key things you need to know:

- Venue: John Cain Arena
- Date: Saturday 13 September
- Performance times: 1.00pm and 6.30pm
- Our students are dancing in Quadrant 2: the seats that offer optimal viewing are in sections 18, 19, 17, 45, 46, 66, 67, 68
- Ticket prices are as follows: Adult \$40, Concession \$30, Child (under 15) \$20

Alternatively, there are four tickets to the 6.30pm show up for grabs in section 69! These seats will have a good view of the Bell dancers. If you are interested, please contact Louise Gray: louisegray@gmail.com or 0412 004 569.



Bell Primary School Presents...

The Great Primary School Mystery

What? Whole-School Arts Production

Who? All Bell Primary School students (Grades P-6)

When? Two performances: Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 October 2025 (6:00pm-7:30pm)

Where? Bell Primary School Sports and Performing Arts Hub (SPAH)





Stomp Dance Company Incursions

In support of our whole-school production, 'The Great Primary School Mystery', Stomp Dance Company is coming to Bell Primary School every Tuesday in Term 3 to teach classes their dance. Students will also be practising their dance in Music classes with Ms S to help get them 'performance ready'.

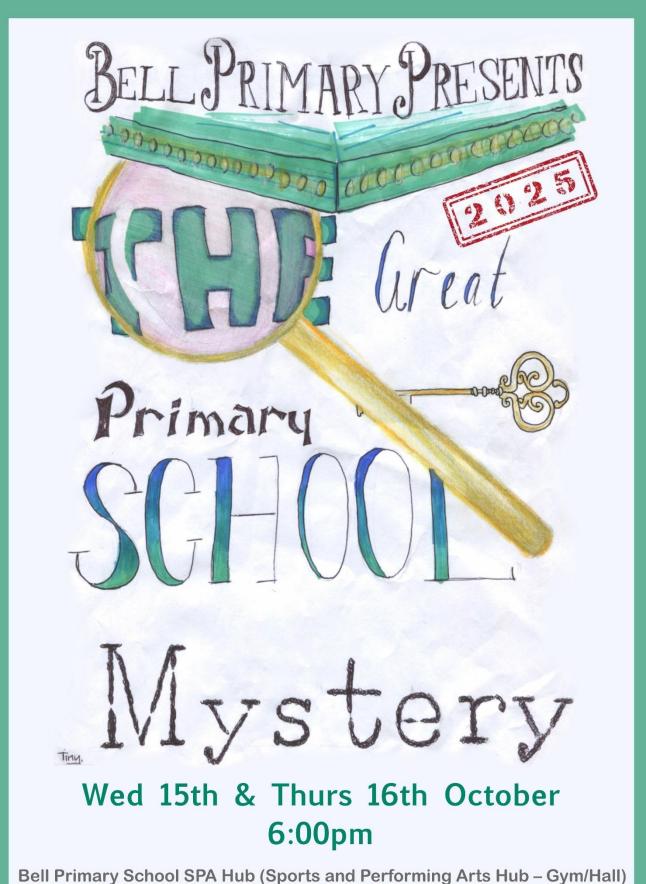
*A reminder that permission/payment for the Stomp Dance Sessions has once again been extended on Compass.

Please action this urgently. (Email bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au if you would like to use your SSB for this.)



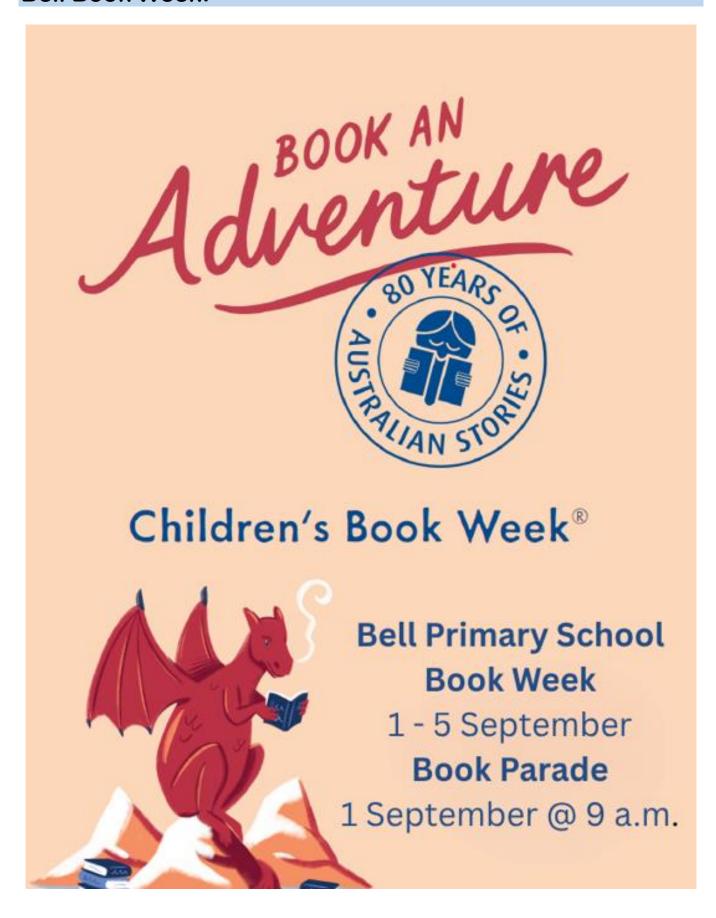






ben't filliary benobled A flub (oports and ferforming Arts flub – bylinflan)

Poster Artwork by Ave, 6A



From the 2026 Fete Team:

Join the Bell Primary Fete Team

28 March 2026

78A Oakover Rd Preston

12pm - 6pm

We're excited to bring the Bell PS community together for another fun and fabulous Fete in 2026 - but we need your help to make it happen!

No experience needed - just enthusiasm, some spare time, and a willingness to pitch in. Whether you've got project management skills, a knack for organising, or just love being involved, there's a role for you!

Rey Roles to Fill

Fete Captain - role already taken

Help steer the ship! Work with the team to coordinate the whole event. Great for big-picture thinkers and natural organisers.

Fete Co-Captain

The Co-Captain shares that leadership role an equal partners with the Captain, Together, they make decisions, divide tasks, and support each other throughout the planning and on the day.

Treasurer – Role already taken
Are you good with numbers? Track our fundraising, manage payments and keep us on budget.

Secretary – Role already taken Love lists and staying organised? Help schedule meetings, take notes, and keep everything on track.

We Also Need cordinators For:

Additional information about the roles - available upon request

Entertainment

Book and manage our stage performers and keep the day lively

Social Media & Website

Keep everyone informed with posts, photos and updates online.

Marketing & Promotion

Design flyers, organise signage, and spread the word to the community.

Rides

Work with the carnival ride provider to confirm bookings and logistics.

Sponsorship

Contact local businesses to help support our fete - either with money, prizes or services.

A Risk & Safety

Keep everyone safe! Check plans and help make sure we're covered with insurance and permits.

Stall Coordinators

Coordinate specific stalls like books, plants, toys, cakes or games.

Food & Beverage

Help organise food trucks and drink stalls. Got hospitality connections? Even better!

📭 Infrastructure & Setup – Role already taken

Help set up marquees, tables, power and equipment before and after the event.

How to Get Involved

If you're keen to join the committee or help in any way - big or small - we'd love to hear from you!

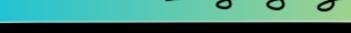
Contact: Vaia Smirneos, vaia.smirneos@gmail.com

Let's make our 2026 Fete one to remember!



BELL PRIMARY TEAMKIDS NEWSLETTER





PARENT QUESTION BOOK

We're launching our Parent Feedback Question Book, a new way for families to share their thoughts and insights with us. This will help us tailor our program to better meet the needs and interests of each child. The question book is a simple way for families to tell us more about their children. By answering a few short questions, you'll be helping us build a clearer picture of each child's world outside of OSHC.

Some of the questions include:

What are your child's interests at the moment?

How does your child like to relax?

What is your child learning outside of TeamKids?

Is there anything we can do to support your child's development?

Your responses will directly inform our circular programming, where we connect children's home experiences, interests, and needs to the learning opportunities we offer. This is part of our ongoing work towards achieving an Exceeding rating in all Quality Areas of the National Quality Standard. We are also using your input to ensure we are meeting all relevant learning outcomes and best practices in school age education and care.

The question book will be available at the sign-in desk. Please feel free to fill it in during drop-off or pickup.

We truly value your input and look forward to learning more about your child. Working together helps us create a more inclusive, engaging, and supportive environment for everyone.



Here's a look at what's coming up:

Yoga Relay

A fun and energetic twist on relaxation! Children will take turns leading yoga poses in a relay-style challenge that builds focus, movement and mindfulness.

V DIY Bird Feeders

We'll be making bird feeders using recycled milk cartons to support local wildlife and connect with nature through sustainability.

3 Upcycled Fashion Show

Children will design outfits using recycled and repurposed materials. We'll finish the week with a mini runway event to celebrate their creativity and commitment to reusing resources.

Gardening Club

Led by student leaders Aoife and Thea, children will explore planting, watering and harvesting while caring for our shared garden space.

Run by student leaders Emily, Isabelle and Phoebe, this club helps children learn a relaxing new skill while building friendships and patience through collaborative crafting.

Dear Future Me Letters

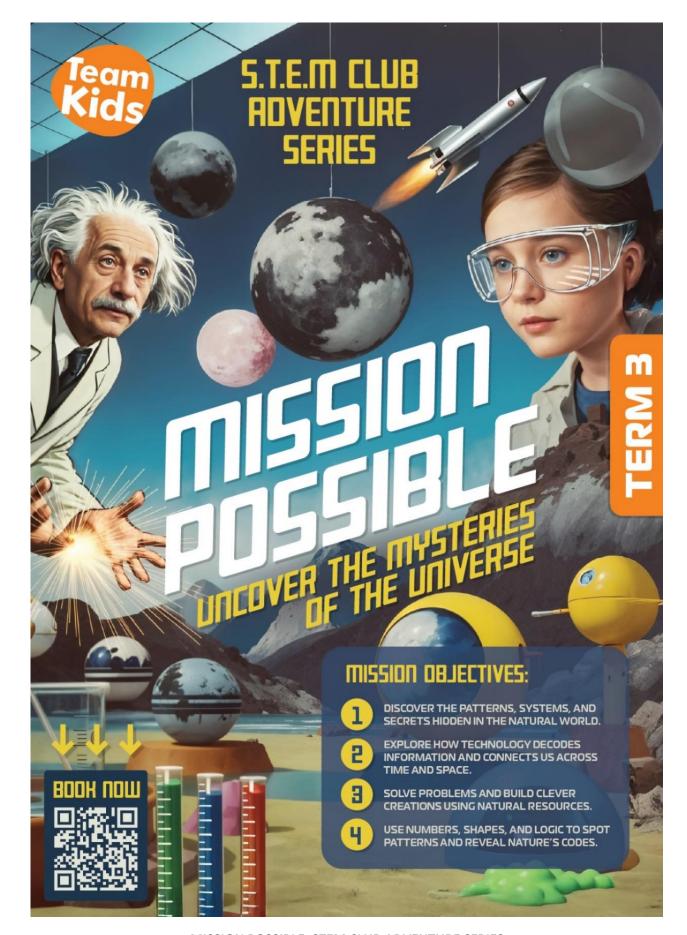
Children will write letters to their future selves, reflecting on their goals, dreams and what makes them proud. These will be sealed and saved to look back on later in the year.

Puppet Theatre and Scriptwriting Project

A creative collaboration where children can develop characters, write scripts and perform their own puppet shows. Great for building imagination and teamwork.

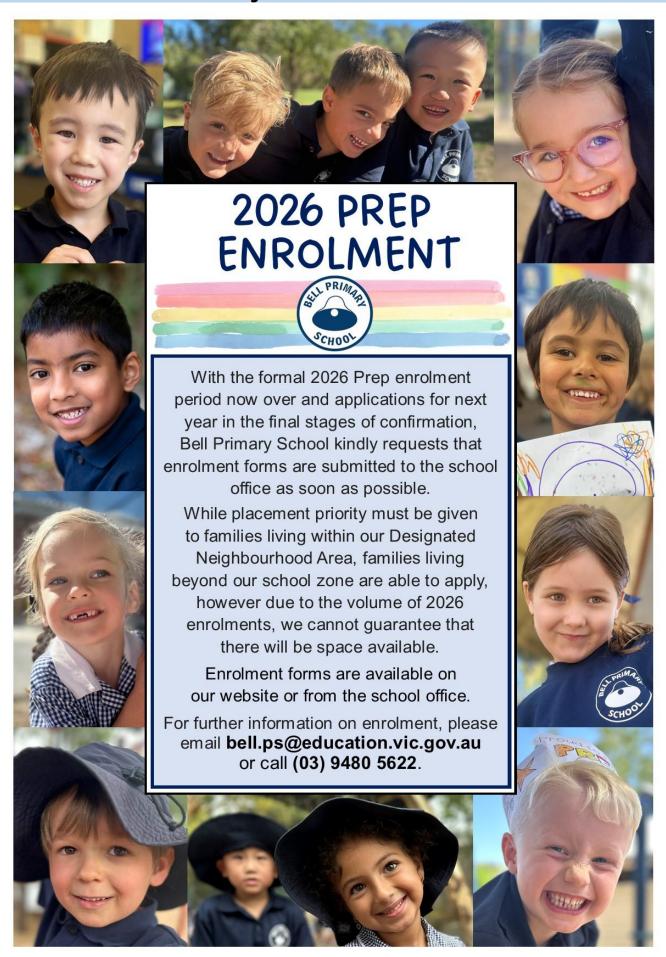
Service Mobile: 0434 416 584 Service Email: bellps@teamkids.com.au

Office Phone: 1300 035 000 Office Email: info@teamkids.com.au



MISSION POSSIBLE: STEM CLUB ADVENTURE SERIES

For the Bell Community:





START YOUR FOSTER CARE JOURNEY TODAY

Have you been thinking about becoming a Foster Carer? Are you able to provide Aboriginal children with a positive and nurturing family life?

Are you excited to support a child's cultural and emotional needs?

VACCA is seeking carers who are open to a journey that is both challenging and rewarding.

If you've ever considered becoming a foster carer, now is the time to start your foster care journey.



Visit our website to find out more: www.vacca.org



PRESTON DRUIDS CRICKET CLUB

Come & play cricket with the Druids!

A community based club for everyone.

Celebrating 100 years of community cricket for Preston in 2025/26

We offer junior girls + boys u10 to u16, Woolworths Cricket Blast, women's and men's teams.







Juniors Come & Try Day

11am Saturday 6th September

W H Robinson Reserve, Preston



Phone - 0409 400 280

Email - prestondruidsjuniors@gmail.com





19TH AUGUST - 16TH SEPTEMBER TUESDAYS 4:30PM - 5:30PM FORD PARK, FORD PARK SOUTH







2026 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT NOW OPEN!

3-4 YEARS OLD
STEINER INSPIRED PROGRAM
OPEN DAY

Welcome to all families!

Open Day Activities: Storytelling (11:00AM) · Craft & Nature Play

OUR PROGRAM

NURTURE CHILDREN'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL + LIFE-LONG SKILLS

Nature-based learning I Caring for chickens

Domestic life experiences I Storytelling & soft songs

Self-directed play I Imaginative play

OUR ENVIRONMENT

HOME-LIKE SMALL GROUP SETTINGS VEGETARIAN + ORGANIC FOOD

Warm caring educators! Handcraft toys & Natural play materials

Text: 0474 227 049

Email: wonderworldchildcare@outlook.com
Website: wonderworldchildcare.com.au

SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM,
99-101 HAROLD ST, THORNBURY

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