



*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:

Excursions/Incursions/Books/Purple Haze

A huge week at Bell saw the Grade 4s experience some amazing multimedia and technology with a Dream City incursion related to STEM (*which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics*). Grade 1s headed to Melbourne Museum on Tuesday as part of their History Inquiry work. Thursday was the Book Week activities in House groups for the whole school and today was the annual **Wear It Purple Day** plus the Preps' last session of swimming.

All these extra-curricular events are important extensions of the core learning, and drive higher levels of motivation and experiences of learning in different ways. This can only happen with a dedicated staff and a supportive parent/carer community. With Waratah Bay Camp for Grades 5s next week and a Mini Aths event for P-3 before the end of term, there are a few more special events to complement the daily learning in classrooms and specialist subjects.

Gym/Hall Update

As stated in a separate Newsfeed at the start of the week, the VSBA have been working with the State Government to secure some additional funding to ensure we can re-tender soon and then complete the gym/hall project to its full scope of works. Given the unpredictable status of the construction industry, it is difficult to provide a clear timeline yet, but the main message remains; the gym/hall will be completed but we have to remain patient.

Uniform Shop Update

A huge thanks goes out to Kate Steventon who has been working behind the scenes this year in the Uniform Shop. The Shop has been doing a booming trade and provides an important service for our school community, helping with those cost of living pressures we all feel. Kate is unable to continue in that volunteer role, however it is great to welcome Carita Kazakoff who will now be opening the Uniform Shop on **Friday afternoons from 3.15pm – 3.45pm**.

Leaving Bell?

As we continue forward planning for 2024, predicted enrolments are a crucial element to the process. For any families intending to leave the school, I ask that they contact the office as soon as they can to assist us with decisions on class structures and next year's staffing profile. We understand there are many reasons why families move on and always appreciate early communication where possible.

David Twite
Principal



2023 Bell PS Calendar:

Enter dates to remember in your diary, or take a screenshot each week for quick reference!



AUGUST 2023

- **Fri 25:** **Wear It Purple Day**
- Fri 25: **Prep Swimming #6/6**
- Fri 25: Assembly, 3pm (weather permitting)
- Fri 25: Second Hand Uniform Shop, 3.15pm
- Tue 29: **Gr5 only** – Fathers + Special Person's Day Stall
- Wed 30: **Grade 1** Celebration of Learning
- **Wed 30 – Fri 1.9:** **Grade 5** Waratah Bay Camp

SEPTEMBER 2023

- Fri 1: **Gr P-4+6** - Father's + Special Person's Day Stall
- Fri 1: Assembly, 3pm (weather permitting)
- Fri 1: Second Hand Uniform Shop, 3.15pm
- **Fri 1:** **FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT:**
* **Grade 6** Museo Italiano Excursion \$25*
- Mon 4: Grade 2 Celebration of Learning
- **Wed 6:** **Grade 6** Museo Italiano Excursion
- Wed 6: **Prep** Celebration of Learning
- **Wed 6:** **FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT:**
* **Grade 3** Scienceworks Excursion \$30*
- Thu 7: Community Forum + Annual Meeting, 7.15pm, Learning Centre

- Thu 7: **VSSS Rehearsal #5, John Cain Arena**
- Fri 8: **VSSS Rehearsal #6, John Cain Arena**
- Fri 8: Assembly, 3pm (weather permitting)
- Fri 8: Second Hand Uniform Shop, 3.15pm
- **Mon 11:** **Grade 3** Scienceworks Excursion
- **Thu 14:** **Grade 2** Merri Creek Walking Excursion
- Fri 15: Cupcake Stall Fundraiser
- **Fri 15:** **Final Day Term 3, 1.30pm dismissal**

OCTOBER 2023

- **Mon 2:** **First Day Term 4**

NOVEMBER 2023

- **Tue 7:** **Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- **Wed 29 – Fri 1.12:** **Grade 4** Anglesea Camp

DECEMBER 2023

- **Mon 11:** **FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT:**
* **Grade 6** Luna Park Big Day Out \$49*
- **Thu 14:** **Grade 6** Luna Park Big Day Out
- **Wed 20:** **Final Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal**

Beanies : Beanies : Beanies : Beanies : Beanies :

Bell Beanies are available for order [via Qkr!](#) for **\$20 each**.

Keep those heads warm on freezing cold Winter mornings. They're handy for early morning sport on the weekends. Grab one for every member of the family!

Liz Waygood
Beanie Co-ordinator



From the Admin Office:

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Lu Paglia: Business Manager (Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri) : **Jo Taylor:** Finance/Excursions (Mon/Wed/Fri)
Tania Levens: Facilities/OHS/Communication (Tue-Fri) : **Jessie Storm:** Attendance/Enrolments/Medical (Mon-Fri)
OFFICE HOURS: 8.00am – 4.30pm

2024 Prep Enrolments Due



We kindly ask any current Bell families with a 2024 Prep child to submit an enrolment form **as soon as possible** for planning purposes. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from the front office. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Bell siblings to the school! Please contact Jessie in the office with any questions about the enrolment process.

LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY DEPARTURES OR STUDENT ABSENCES

1. **Late Arrival:** **ONLY** enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on arrival.
2. **Early Departure:** **ONLY** enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on arrival.
3. **Whole Day Absence:** **MUST** be entered on your Compass Parent Portal either in advance, or on the day by clicking the absence SMS link.

Please help the Admin Team out by NOT entering medical/dental appointments, etc, through your Compass Parent Portal – simply follow the early departure / late arrival procedure when you come in to drop off or collect your child.

COVID Requirements Update

As of July 10, Victorian schools are no longer required to keep records of student COVID cases, however the DET recommendation remains in place that any staff or students who test positive for COVID should stay home for 5 days minimum and only return to school when they are symptom-free. We kindly ask that you continue to inform office staff or your child's teacher if your child tests positive for COVID. Free rapid antigen tests are still available at the front office. **Thank you for your continued co-operation.**

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 parent volunteer once per week. **The Shop will now be open every FRIDAY afternoon from 3.15-3.45pm.** Don't forget your gold coins – [no credit or credit card facility is available](#).

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please see our [website](#) for details on these activities offered both after school and/or during school time in Room 14 – please make direct contact with the provider:

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



BOOK WEEK 2023



From the Sustainability Club:

Schools for Wildlife Program – A new habitat garden for Bell!!

You might have noticed there is a new garden on the North Oval.

28 students from Sustainability Club have been working on developing a wildlife garden to attract more native animals to our school. This will be like a new butterfly garden to replace the old one that was destroyed when the gym was being made.

The group of students have been working with Nicola, from CERES, to learn about designing and planting a garden. We've had three incursions - one online and the other two in person - and in these sessions, we learnt about different levels needed in a habitat (canopy, understory, shrubs and ground covers). We found out that our school has mostly canopy and understory which is made up of tall trees and bushes. We tested the texture and acidity of our soil to see what plants would grow best and managed to plant 114 new plants in our garden!! These plants will add to the shrub and ground cover levels that we are missing, and create a nice habitat for native animals in our area.

Our favourite part of this program was planting the plants and we are looking forward to taking care of our new garden. This area will be out of bounds for the next few months to help the plants grow safely. We need everyone's help to make the garden grow, so please don't go into that area for now.

A big thanks to the grade 6s for mulching the site and to the parents who came along and helped out at the incursions.

Thanks for reading and we hope you enjoy our new wildlife garden!!

By June and Elena, Grade 3





Learning about wildlife attracting plants

Soil testing and garden design

Planting!!!

From the Grade 1 Team:



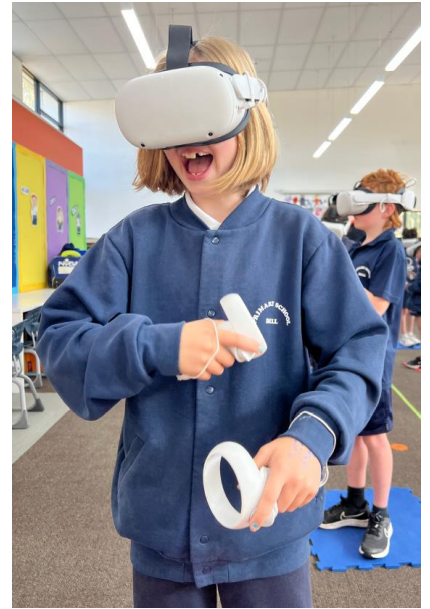
On Tuesday, the Grade 1 students explored the Melbourne Museum. They participated in a guided session, 'My Grandmother's Toybox' (ran by our very own Bell PS parent, Ali) to extend their thinking of historical concepts of 'Then and Now' and how things have changed over time. We had the best day!

From the Grade 4 Team:

On Monday the 21st, we were lucky enough to have Dream City come to Bell and run three different STEM based activities for the Grade 4s over the morning. The students were able to see how STEM is currently used in some industries. This was part of our Science Week celebrations, and our students were impressive in both their behaviour and engagement with each activity.

James Lakin

4A Classroom Teacher



From the Grade 5 Team:

Recently we, as a class, read a lovely heartfelt story about a young African boy called William Kamkwamba who made a whole electric-producing windmill out of scraps in the scrapyard at the age of 14.

The class has been through tears, laughter, cheers and silence. Honestly it was one of the most gripping books that I have ever read.

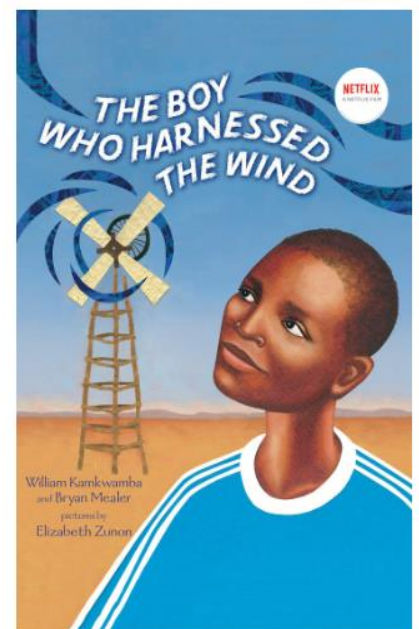
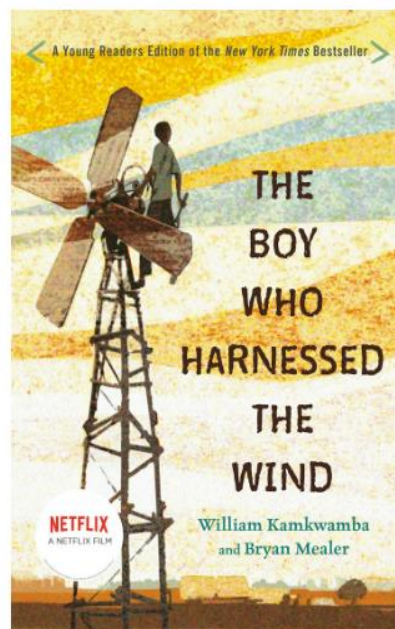
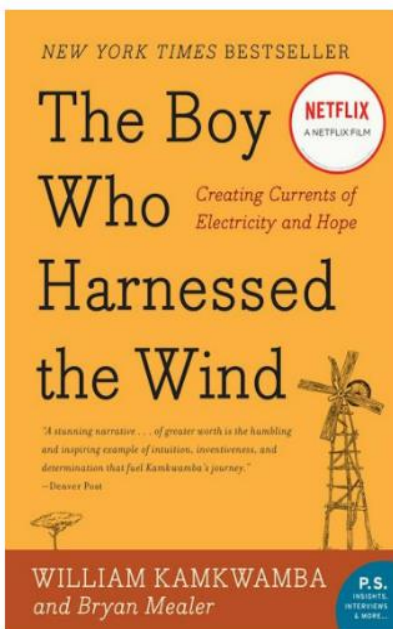
William Kamkwamba grew up on a maize-growing farm in Malawi, Africa. He has six sisters, a hard-working mum and a kind, honest dad. In the year 2000, an awful famine struck. William and his family could only afford/find one blob of nsima (maize porridge) each and every day. Finally, after three whole years, in 2003, the famine ended.

In the meantime, William had discovered what science and electricity was and, without paying, went to school. He was found out and thrown out with pretty much no education. So, William decided to teach himself. He went down to the library and was in awe of all the books, so he started learning. When he was looking for the meaning of 'grapes' in the dictionary he stumbled across a book called 'Explaining Physics'. And after looking at it for days, he decided to make a windmill to give electricity and pump water to his home village.

One year later the windmill was done, and hundreds of reporters, writers and scientists came to his door (after the news got around the world).

Thank you for reading!!

Written by Laura, 5A



Students in Grade 5 recently wrote letters to William after reading his book. Read on to find out what they wanted to tell William!

Dear William,

I am a Grade Five student at Bell Primary and I've enjoyed a lot throughout reading your story. I truly enjoyed reading each bit of your story because you expressed yourself with such good word choice. For example, when the famine happened, I barely heard you say 'everyone was starving'. You said, 'everyone was down to skin and bones'. It was an amazing word choice.

This book made me think about being as creative as I can and trying my hardest in everything I do. I also thought to follow my dreams and keep going no matter what.

I have learnt the most about being as grateful for anything I get and not to be fussy because of your book. It has been a life-changing lesson for not just me, but for everyone else in my class. I admired how you thought of making your amazing creations and how you are trying to stop Malawians from getting any more famines.

I wonder if you ever doubted yourself with making the windmill or did you think you were not going to fail and you had a lot of motivation?

Anyway, that's the end of my letter and thank you for making a life-changing book for so many people out there.

From Dean



Word Art by Evie W.

Dear William,

I am writing to you to tell you that your book was amazing. I am a year five student at Bell Primary School. Recently my class read your book. It was INCREDIBLE.

I learned so much about your life and how far you have come after being kicked out of school because you didn't have enough money to pay but you were still smarter than all the kids that bullied you for

being in the scrap yard. I admire all the detail that was put into the book and I also admire how determined you were to build that windmill when you were only 13/14 years old.

I wonder, was your Dad mad when he read your book and heard you killed Khamba? Also, are you going to make any other books? I would love to read more from you.

From Evie P.

Hi William! My name is Caleb, and I am a Grade 5 student at Bell Primary School in Melbourne, Australia.

We read The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. MY WHOLE GRADE 5 COHORT (78 people) READ YOUR BOOK! It was so interesting and entertaining. And we all had the sad, happy and angry moments. I would never think that I would be writing a letter to you!

How is it going in Malawi? Is it good that you have electricity now? The book that you wrote was good and I learnt to never give up on your dreams and you can do anything with money and without money.

As a class we watched your TED talks. The TED talks were amazing and the book was amazing too! I enjoyed seeing you never give up and building the windmill out of scraps that you found in the junkyard. You are so creative and lovely.

Hey William, did you find your six sisters annoying because I have two sisters and sometimes my sisters are a little bit annoying. Oh - and how smart were you?!? OMG! When we were reading the book as a class, in my head I was like, OMG William is so smart! By the way, I could not build a windmill out of scraps if I tried.

I also think you're a star when you were on that stage and doing that TED talk. I wonder how long would it take for me to fly to Malawi from Melbourne, Australia?

Keep up the good work and have an amazing life in Malawi!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
BYE WILLIAM!!! 😊

Sincerely, Caleb

Sincerely, Sienna



Word Art by Juniper S

Hello William!

I'm Asha, from Australia. My Grade Five class (in Bell Primary School,) has just read your Young Readers Edition of The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. We went through ups and downs of emotion. There was clapping and crying, cheering and laughing. Here are my thoughts on your book.

I admire in this book how you struggled through hardships, only to build a magnificent windmill! It's amazing to think that you were able to build a windmill out of the things around you. And to add on to that, you were only 13-14! Which is crazy. I am younger than you were when you built your windmill (I'm eleven,) and I'm already inspired by your book to follow my dreams, no matter how impossible they seem.

This made me think about how things work, just like you did. You inspired me to be more curious and observant of the world around me.

Your book taught me about people's lives in Africa, and to appreciate what I have and to never take it for granted. Your book also taught me to be generous, and to look after the people around me better.

I have two questions for you: Have you built any more windmills since writing your book? And are they just for Wimbe or do you want to reach your windmills to other villages in Africa, to give them electricity and water?

I enjoyed reading your book and how entertaining it was to have a look into your life.

Thank you for being an inspiration to me, and have a wonderful day/night!

Good job!

Kind regards,
Asha

From the Sports Department:

Term 3 Grade 6 Sports Gala Day

On Monday 21st of August, the Grade 6s had a Sports Gala Day playing basketball, newcomb, tee-ball and ultimate frisbee.

Newcomb is similar to volleyball. The team won 1, tied 1, lost 2 and got better the more they played. The girls' basketball team lost 3. They played well and had fun but played against teams that had trained really well. The boys' basketball team got to the Grand Final. It was a close game but they lost 7 to 8.

The ultimate frisbee team played as hard as they could but only won the last game out of the 5 games that were played. We all had a fun time and learnt an epic new sport. The tee-ball team played 4 games, won 3 and tied once! They had so much fun and would like to play again in the future.

Thanks to Josh for organising the day for the whole district!



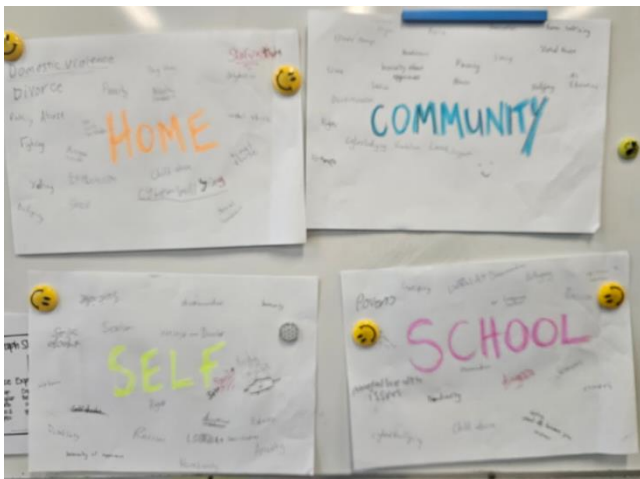
From the Grade 6 Team:

VIDEOS FOR CHANGE

by Grade 6s

In Grade 6, as an extension to our persuasive writing, we are in the planning stages of creating a *Video For Change*. What is this I hear you ask? Well, it is our opportunity to create a one-minute video on a social issue we are passionate about, with the aim of working collaboratively to make a change in our community, hopefully creating a safer, fairer or more sustainable future for everyone.

We began the process by watching videos that high school students had made and discussing what their videos made us **THINK** and **FEEL** about their chosen issue, and what we were being asked to **DO** about it.



Later, we brainstormed social issues that impact us as individuals, at home, at school or in the community. After selecting an issue we were passionate about pursuing, we got together with likeminded students to begin planning our videos. As a group, it was important for us to determine what we wanted our audience to **THINK** and **FEEL** about our issue and what we want them to **DO** about it.

We are excited to create our *Videos For Change* and look forward to sharing them with our friends and families once they are completed.



From the F+SPD Stalls FUNdraising Team:

Father's and Special Person's Day Stalls

****Grade 5s: Tuesday 29 August (on camp on Friday)****

Main Stall: Friday 1 September

Just another reminder about our Father's + Special Person's Day Stalls: one on Tuesday 29 August for the Grade 5s and one on Friday 1 September for all other grades.

Thanks to those who have already donated and volunteered their time. To make both stalls a success, we need at least 1000 gifts so everything we receive really helps! We appreciate you're all busy and not everyone has the time to make or create, so here's a few more suggestions that might make it easier:

- Seed packets - super cheap at Bunnings or support Ceres
- Cinnamon Sugar in a jar - just one cup of granulated sugar to one tablespoon of cinnamon) great for toast, porridge and coffee!
- Second hand books
- Home-made bookmarks
- Plants
- Home-made stress balls - balloons and flour and sharpie is all that's needed!
- BBQ dry rubs - lots of recipes online
- Home-baking - for Friday stall only
- Assembled jars or mugs - a jar/mug with lollies, hot chocolate sachets or individually wrapped tea-bags

Thanks, we really appreciate all your support!

Rebekah + Liz

The F+SPD Stall FUNdraising Team

Father's & Special Person's Day Stall

Grade 5's (on camp on Fri) Tue 29th Aug

Main Stall Fri 1st Sept

It's time to get creative

Here are some ideas to make or donate:

- BBQ rubs & sauces
- Braided keyrings
- Bookmarks
- Secondhand books
- DIY stress balls
- Seeds & Seedlings
- Flannels & soap
- Jams & Relishes
- Bath Bombs
- Special person day coupons
- Snack bags & baked goodies
- Painted picture frames
- Home drawn coasters
- Home made keyrings
- Decorated jars as organiser
- Sleeping eye masks
- Decorated mugs
- Rocks Paperweights



**CALLING ALL
2024 PREP
ENROLMENTS**



With planning for next year now underway, we ask that any families who have not yet submitted a Prep enrolment form for their child please do so as soon as possible.

Enrolment forms are accessible on our website or in the school office, and can be submitted in person or to bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Please contact Jessie in the office for any questions about the enrolment process.

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 4 2023** is as follows:

Year levels: 3 to 6

Term Fee: \$210 excl GST

AFTER SCHOOL

3:40pm – 4:40pm

BATCH

Thursdays 5th Oct to 30th Nov 2023

Fill out the form online by
Thursday 14th Sep 2023



www.digimaker.com.au/enrol

Digimaker will confirm your child's spot via email**

** All important emails from Digimaker will be sent from info@digimaker.com.au. Please ensure this address is whitelisted in your Junk Email filters or added as a Trusted contact.

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/>

What's been happening...

Over the last few weeks the children have been involved in many new activities and experiences.

This week the children have celebrated book week. This involved the children drawing their own book covers and playing a game of "silly book title". The children had to roll a dice that had random words attached to numbers 1-6 which created a silly book title, to which the children had to draw a cover for. This entailed lots of fun and laughs. The theme for this year's book week was Read, Grow, Inspire. The children read the book *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle which talks about planting and growing flowers, so we decided to plant our own flowers in our garden. The children chose Viola's and Cyclamen's to plant. Our garden bed is on display outside of entrance to the oshc room.

We have also been focusing learning about the different cultures we have in our oshc family. Educator Olivia, taught the children about her Maori background which involved learning Maori words, learning about both the traditional New Zealand and Indigenous Flag and also showing the children the Haka.

The children have loved their Extra Curricular Activity of AFL over the last 4 weeks. The children got to practice kicking, handballing, were involved in fun warm up games and got to play lots of rounds of AFL. We thank Mikayla from Cube Sports for coming down and teaching the children the last 4 weeks.

We were also very lucky to have Simone from the Preston Library visit us and involve the children in a reading session in the library. The children all got to choose a book to read with the group and got to act out scenes from the book they chose in front of their friends. We look forward to having Simone come down and visit us again soon!

Our Spring Holiday Program has just been finalised and bookings are now open to secure your spot! The program will run from Monday 18th – Thursday 28th of September. We will be closed for the AFL Grand Final public holiday. We have some very exciting themes and excursion's we are going on such as having a Zombie Party day, Mini Chef Day, AFL Footy Final Day, visiting CERES and having Brickworks and a Forensic Science incursion. If you need any help with bookings, please don't hesitate to let us know.

As always, any other questions or concerns you may have please reach out.

Warm regards Celeste, Olivia & Jamila.

Mon-Fri 07:00-09:00 & 15:00-18:30
0413 123 119
Bell@oshclub.com.au

oshclub.com.au
1300 395 735

NOTICE - ALLERGY - Please ensure all food is nut free

EXCURSION

INCURSION

Monday 18 September

TEST YOUR SENSES

IN-SERVICE

Take the sensory test today, which of your five senses is the strongest, can you guess the smell with your eyes closed?

Guess the chocolate with your taste, paint blindfolded, and guess what's in the box with just your touch.



Monday 25 September

IN + \$19.00

LET'S GET MESSY

INCURSION - BRICKWORKS

Immerse yourself in a world of building and imagination in this fun and easy-going program. Be ready to show your creative side as you work through different construction and design challenges.



Tuesday 19 September

ZOMBIE PARTY

IN-SERVICE

It's time to party! Come dressed in your spookiest costume as we have a frighteningly good time dancing and playing with our friends!

Get spooky at OSH with icky slime, a game of zombie tag and take out the enemy with your zombie catapult.



Tuesday 26 September

MINICHEF

IN-SERVICE

Present to the judges your finest food creation for a shot at the Mini Chef title. What will you find in the Mystery Box?

Go head to head in the cooking challenge, eat at the playdough pizzeria and take home your chef's hat!



Wednesday 20 September

EX + \$45.00

LET IT GROW

EXCURSION - CERES COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT PARK

Today is all about recycling, reusing, upcycling and caring for the environment! Let's be inspired by sustainable living at CERES Community Environment Park. We will take part in activities including netting for insects and making our own paper.

Please arrive by 8:15am



Wednesday 27 September

BUGGING OUT

IN-SERVICE

Bug out with us today as we explore the wonderful world of mini beasts. Did you know Australia has an estimated 30,000 of these? Let's discover !!

Today we will create a bug hotel, make our own mini beast cookies and craft a suncatcher.



Thursday 21 September

IN + \$19.00

MINI INVENTORS

INCURSION - FORENSIC SCIENCE

What is forensic science? Learn about what it takes to be a forensic scientist and work together as a team to solve a staged crime scene. Are you the next forensic expert?



Thursday 28 September

FOOTY FINALS FEVER

IN-SERVICE

It's footy finals week, come dressed in your favourite teams colours as we celebrate all things sport.

Meet us on the footy field for an intense match, followed by an AFL themed feast and some trivia.



Friday 22 September

INDOOR GLAMPING

IN-SERVICE

Bring your tent from home if you have one, as today we are glamping indoors or on the oval. Gather round the fire as we make some healthy smores, play tic tac toe, and prepare our dreamcatchers.



Friday 29 September

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

SERVICE CLOSED



Mon - Fri 7:00am - 6:30pm
Bell Primary School - 0413 123 119
78A Oakover Road Preston VIC 3072

Daily price: \$70.00 | Excursions and incursions are an additional cost to the daily fee and are charged for each child that attends whether they choose to participate or not.

Book now at oshclub.com.au | be quick as places are limited

Customer Service 1300 395 735