



*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:

Swimming Carnival for Grades 3-6

The annual Bell House Swimming Carnival will be held on **Friday 17 November** at Oak Park Aquatic Centre. As outlined in the Compass Event information, there is something for everyone with the more serious swim trials, novelty events for all abilities and other fun activities including the waterslide and splash pad. We hope all Grade 3s to 6s can join the fun and, of course, wear some House colours to continue building that House spirit.

Parents and carers are welcome to attend and Josh will be looking for some helpers on the day. *Parent helpers must provide the office with a copy of their Working With Children Check unless they have already done so.* Please contact the office, or Josh directly on joshua.grogan@education.vic.gov.au, if you can assist.

Future Preps Transitioning to Bell

Emma Heywood and the Prep Team have mapped out a comprehensive Transition Program with six sessions aimed at creating a warm and welcoming time for new Bell families and existing families sending their next child to school.

The first online transition meeting for parents/carers was held on Tuesday night with most new families attending. The informal play session is next Wednesday, followed by the four weekly sessions in the Learning Centre. The final event is a BBQ later in the term to bring all new and existing families together to support each other as their children transition to school in 2024.

Transition Planning for 2024 Grades

The transition team have mapped out the Term 4 program for this year's Prep to Grade 5 students to ensure the step-up to their next year level is as smooth as possible. Key points in the process include:

- Staff are working with a straight grade model with no composite classes. Whilst numbers are never perfect within each grade level, straight grades are manageable next year with current enrolment predictions.
- Parent/carer input and student friendship lists will occur like other years and will be considered by staff. Please do not send any emails as the usual confidential Google form will be made available for parent feedback in the coming weeks.
- There will be three transition sessions allowing all students to get a feel for their higher year level.
- Staff are committed to working collectively and consistently throughout this process, making the best decisions we can using our professional observations and judgements.

More details will be published in subsequent Newsletters as the grade allocation/step-up program is rolled out.

Sign up for the Bell Blitz

Thanks to the twelve parents and carers who have already signed up to the upcoming Working Bee on Saturday 11 November. Scroll down to page 6 for more details and to access the sign up link. There will be a BBQ and drinks for those in attendance and, as the work is low level, children are more than welcome to help.



Leaving Bell in 2024?

If any families are 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 when possible.

Pupil Free Day before Melbourne Cup

The final Pupil Free Day for the year will be held [this Monday 6 November](#), when teachers will work on the end of year student assessment and reporting process. OSHClub will run a service for the day for those families not in a position to have an extended weekend.

Friday Assemblies – New [2.50pm](#) Start Time

Assemblies will now commence 10 minutes earlier on Fridays as we seem to be finishing too close to the 3.30pm bell most weeks. We don't want students rushing back to class to collect bags with the potential of trips and falls as the bell goes; that would be a disastrous way to start the weekend. It is great to see many more parents and carers attend assembly to hear all the news from the many student presenters each week.

In saying that, [Friday 10 November's Assembly](#) will begin straight after the break at [2.40pm](#) as it will incorporate our [World's Greatest Shave](#) events. See page 9 for details.

David Twite
Principal

From our Assistant Principal:

We are undertaking a review of our reporting cycle that informs and engages parents and carers in their child's learning.

For parents/carers of students in the middle-senior years, you will recall that a similar survey was conducted at the end of 2019. Based on the feedback from the school community, parents/carers community, teachers and students, a number of strengths and areas for adjustment were identified. Subsequently both minor and major changes have been strategically implemented between 2020-2023, including but not limited to:

- Information nights scheduled for earlier in Term 1 with administration reminders removed. This has enabled teaching teams to focus on sharing relevant teaching and learning or year level specific information. Administration reminders are now documented, sent out via Compass Newsfeed annually and available on the website.
- Semester reports now sent out at the end of Term 2 instead of early term 3. Adjustments to Specialist comment areas and inclusion of effort/behaviour scales for each area.
- Term 3 student led conferences were replaced by a Parent/Carer-Teacher Conference. Student led conferences evolved into Celebrations of Learning, enabling termly opportunities for students to share their learning with parents/carers in a more structured way.
- Blogs were strategically abandoned and Parent/Carer Learning Support documents implemented to keep parents/carers connected with the learning happening in the classroom each Term, including provision of suggestions to support learning at home.

As all changes have now been implemented, we are once again seeking feedback to identify and further refine, and ensure our whole school approaches are meeting the needs of all members of our school community- parents/carers, teachers and students.

While there are additional and more individualised communication processes between school and home, this survey is solely focused on our whole-school processes.

The survey will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete and closes TODAY - Friday 3 November.

<https://forms.gle/vy7F5JFXhLPap437A>

Emma Heywood
Assistant Principal

2023 Bell PS Calendar:

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



NOVEMBER 2023

- Fri 3: 'Reporting Cycle' Parent Survey Closes
- Fri 3: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Mon 6: **Pupil Free Day****
- **Tue 7: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- Wed 8: **Prep 2024 Optional** Transition Session (9.30-10.30 : parents/carers remain onsite)
- **Fri 10: World's Greatest Shave Event, 2.40pm**
- Fri 10: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Sat 11: Bell Working Bee, 9am-12pm**
- **Mon 13: FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT: *Grade 6 Set for Secondary Online Sessions \$13***
- Wed 15: **Prep 2024 Transition #1, 9.30-11.00** (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- Wed 15: **Grade 6 Parents** Online Webinar #1
- **Wed 15: FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT: *Grade 6 Graduation Dance Sessions \$26***
- Thu 16: **Grade 1** Celebration of Learning
- Thu 16: **Grade 3** Celebration of Learning
- Thu 16: **Grade 6** Set for Secondary Online Session #1
- Thu 16: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #1
- Fri 17: **Grades 3-6** Swimming Carnival, Oakpark
- Fri 17: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Wed 22: FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT: *Grade 2 TaskWorks Incursion \$17***
- Wed 22: **Prep 2024 Transition #2, 9.30-11.00** (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- Wed 22: **Grade 6 Parents** Online Webinar #2
- Thu 23: **Grade 6** Set for Secondary Online Session #2
- Fri 24: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #2
- **Fri 24: Grade 2 TaskWorks Incursion**
- Fri 24: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Tue 28: Whole School Transition #1/3**

- Wed 29: **Prep 2024 Transition #3, 9.30-11.00** (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- **Wed 29 – Fri 1 Dec: Grade 4 Anglesea Camp**
- Wed 29: **Grade 6 Parents** Online Webinar #3
- Thu 30: **Grade 6** Set for Secondary Online Session #3

DECEMBER 2023

- Fri 1: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #3
- Fri 1: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Tue 5: Whole School Transition #2/3**
- Tue 5: **Prep 2024 Parent/Carer Info Evening #2, 6pm** (A Day in the Life of a Prep, Q+A Face to Face, LC)
- Wed 6: **Prep 2024 Transition #4, 9.30-11.00** (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- Wed 6: **Funkey Music EOY Concert**, Learning Centre
- Thu 7-Fri 8: **Grade 3** School Sleepover
- Fri 8: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #4
- Fri 8: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- Mon 11: **Grade 6** Kids Helpline Transition Session
- **Mon 11: FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT: *Grade 6 Luna Park Big Day Out \$49***
- **Tue 12: Whole School Transition #3/3**
- Tue 12: **Statewide Year 6→7 Transition**
- Tue 12: **Optional Welcome BBQ for Prep 2024 Families** (4.00pm-6.00pm)
- **Thu 14: Grade 6 Luna Park Big Day Out**
- Fri 15: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #5
- Fri 15: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- Mon 18: **Grade 6** Colour Run + Picnic
- Tue 19: **Grade 6** Graduation, Northcote Theatre (doors open 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start)
- **Wed 20: Final Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal**

2024 Dates so far...

January

- Mon 29: **Statewide Pupil Free Day**
- **Tue 30: Grades 1-6 First Day**
- **Tue 30: Prep Drop In Day**
- **Wed 31 + Thu 1 Feb: Prep Staggered Starts**

March

- Mon 11: **Labour Day Public Holiday**
- Thu 28: **Last Day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal**

April

- Mon 15: **First Day Term 2**
- Thu 25: **ANZAC Day Public Holiday**

June

- Mon 10: **King's Birthday Public Holiday**
- Fri 28: **Last Day Term 2, 2.30pm dismissal**

July

- Mon 15: **First Day Term 3**

September

- Fri 20: **Last Day Term 3, 2.30pm dismissal**

October

- Mon 7: **First Day Term 4**

November

- **Tue 5: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**

December

- Fri 20: **Last Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal**

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

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS PLEASE

A reminder for parents/carers who are volunteering at school in any capacity, ie: parent reading, fundraising events, excursions, incursions, etc, please arrange a Working With Children Check and provide a copy to the office.

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 five 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 by Carita 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

Bell Blitz Working Bee:

Please join us on
Saturday 11 November
for a
Family Friendly Working Bee
at Bell PS
from 9.00am - 12 noon.

JOBS TO BE TACKLED:

Weeding
Mulching
Pruning
Garden edging
And more...

Planning to come along?
Please RSVP [HERE](#) to help make the day
run as smoothly as possible.

We'll be firing up the **BBQ**
for all those in attendance
so please indicate any dietary
restrictions when you RSVP.

Information about what to bring, etc,
will be sent out to those who
RSVP closer to the date.

Please contact Ivy at
ivy.callander@education.vic.gov.au
if you have any queries.





Grade 1 Merri Creek Adventures



On Tuesday the 24th of October, the Grade 1 students set off on a walking Excursion to the Merri Creek. As a part of their Inquiry Geography unit, students have been focusing on the question *'What is in our local area?'* Prior to the walk students looked at a map of the local area and worked out the best route. Students brainstormed places and services in our community. The students were very excited and off they set with their clip boards and task in hand, checking off the natural and constructed features they observed as they went. Back at school students wrote a recount reflecting on their experiences.



From the Grade 4 Team:

This term in Grade 4, our big focus for mathematics has been fractions and decimals and how we use them in the 'real world'. Part of our work on fractions has seen us using a wide range of resources to represent fractions, including number lines. The Grade 4s have been able to find equivalent fractions and make the links between a fraction and decimal to convert between them.

The Grade 4 Team





Sponsor the Bell Shavers!



On **Friday 10 November**, the Junior School Council of Bell will run a World's Greatest Shave fundraising event to support the Leukaemia Foundation.

Some brave students AND one teacher have signed up to shave their heads. These students have already raised more than \$4,000 to support life-saving research and important health services for people affected by leukaemia! Our students would love your support. To donate to any student on the team you can follow the link here, or use the QR code to get to the Bell Team page and choose someone in the team to support. All students will be able to donate to the Leukaemia Foundation as we will have a gold-coin donation **Special Hair Day** as part of our World's Greatest Shave event on Friday 10 November. **The event will kick off at 2.40pm, straight after the break.**

Get in touch with Claire (3C) or Hannah (1B) if you need further information.

Thank you for your support!

Claire, Hannah, and the Junior School Council



SPECIAL HAIR DAY 10 NOVEMBER



WHAT IS IT?

Everyone is invited to wear their hair in a special way and bring gold coin donation. We are raising funds for the Leukaemia Foundation .

SPECIAL HAIR DAY IS PART OF OUR WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE EVENT

Not everyone can shave their head to support the Leukaemia Foundation, that's why we're having special hair day on the same day!



**BRING A
GOLD COIN
DONATION
FOR THE
LEUKAEMIA
FOUNDATION**



**WEAR YOUR
HAIR IN A
SPECIAL WAY
ON FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 10!**

#3 Digital Friendships

How do you keep online friendships safe? We spend more and more time online and it's important to make sure that we're always looking out for ourselves and each other. This is especially true when our conversations move from in person to online.



Activity

Read aloud: Let's find the three things that are a part of in-person communication but not online, text-only communication. Circle them. Then, we'll talk about why those pieces matter. After we discuss, let's check the Answers section to see how we did!

Body language

Instructions

Eye contact

Compliments

Jokes

Help

Encouragement

Tone of voice

Answer these questions together: Why do those three things matter? How can they make online and face-to-face communication different?

Answers: The three missing pieces are body language, eye contact, and tone of voice. They matter because those things help us connect with another person. Sometimes, when someone is behind a keyboard and can't see the other person, they type things they wouldn't say to someone's face. Also, hearing someone's voice and seeing their body language can help us understand how they feel in a way letters on a screen can't. That means we have to be extra clear (and kind) when we chat online.

Soon after children begin reading and writing, they often begin interacting with each other online. Whether they're chatting within games or texting family members, kids need the skills to interact respectfully. These skills will help kids - and the people they're communicating with - have positive experiences online.

1

Give them the right words.

Kids learn about appropriate verbal and physical communication from watching you. But online conversations can be invisible. Occasionally, narrate as you're writing texts or social media comments when your kids are in earshot.

2

Play a game of telephone.

Discuss how a message can change depending on the person delivering it or the delivery method. Read a question like "What are you doing?" with different tones of voice. Talk about how emoji and punctuation can help communicate tone and emotion in text messages.

3

Help kids navigate online friendships.

In the beginning, you might limit all communication with strangers online. As kids get older, you can monitor any online chatting. And once they're more independent, you can discuss which methods of communication are appropriate as well as which types of information to keep private from online-only friends.

4

Develop their instincts.

Help kids trust their guts so they can exit iffy or inappropriate online conversations. Discuss different scenarios and ask how they would feel and what they would do.



**2024 PREP
ENROLMENT**



With our Prep Transition program about to begin, we kindly ask that any local families with a 2024 Prep student who have not yet submitted an 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.



Australian Childhood Anxiety TREATMENT STUDY

Free home-based
assessment and treatment for
7 to 12 year old children with
fear and anxiety disorders.

Does your child become very afraid of certain situations or objects, worry about a lot of things, get very distressed, or try to avoid things they fear?

About the study

Our team at Griffith University may be able to assist you. We are conducting a nationwide study that includes the following services at no cost to families:

- A thorough assessment of your child's anxiety with a trained psychologist via the telephone;
- Your child receiving one of two kinds of home-based treatments delivered on a PC, laptop or tablet; and
- Two follow-up telephone assessments with a trained psychologist 6- and 12-months after treatment to track your child's progress.

The study aims to find out if these two treatments are as effective as each other, and which children have the best response to each kind of treatment. This will mean that there are more evidence-based treatments available for helping anxious children.

About the treatments

Each treatment involves your child completing treatment sessions at home on a PC, laptop or tablet.

Each treatment involves your child learning practical strategies to better manage anxiety.

- One treatment helps children learn to control the focus of their attention on helpful things around them.
- The other treatment helps children learn to think differently and approach things they fear.

Each treatment includes information, telephone or email support for parents in assisting their child to better manage anxiety.

Prior studies have shown that children who complete each treatment experience significant reductions in anxiety.

Contact us

This study is being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and is led by Professor Allison Waters and a team of experts in childhood anxiety disorders.

For more information about our study and our team, or if you would like your child to participate, please contact us:



(07) 3735 3351



cadrp@griffith.edu.au



griffith.edu.au/childhood-anxiety-treatment-study



Australian Government
National Health and
Medical Research Council



GU Ref No: 2019/146

Please click [here](#) for an information sheet from Griffith University titled:
“Improving Access to Treatment for Children with Anxiety Disorders”.

Could you be a Foster Carer?



Scan me!

Find out more about
foster care and
how **you** can **make**
a difference.

We want to work with you to make a positive and lasting difference to the lives of children in your community.

As a Key Assets foster carer we'll provide you with 24/7 support, a dedicated social worker and on-going training. If you're looking to provide love, safety and care for a child we'd love to hear from you.





Are you over 25 with a spare bedroom?

If you answered yes then you're already on your way to becoming a foster carer.

Victorian children and young people in your local community need a safe space to call home



“Our carers Emma and Adam say...

There are so many children in need and so few people willing to take the risk.

I thank Key Assets for making a difference; the financial support means we can go beyond boundaries to give these children every opportunity to grow, develop and reach their potential.”

canifoster.org.au
(03) 9566 7800



School Student Broadband Initiative

An Australian Government initiative
powered by nbn

To support students that do not have access to internet at home, the Australian Government has committed to providing up to 30,000 families with free nbn-powered broadband internet at home for one year.

You may be eligible for the School Student Broadband initiative (SSBI) if you:

- Have a school-aged child
- Have no active **nbn** connection or have not disconnected in the last 14 days
- Live in a premise that is serviced by the **nbn** network.



Scan the QR for more information.

To check your eligibility:

 Contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT)

 www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet

Callback and webchat functions are also available via the website.

 Translating and Interpreting Services are available.