



*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:

### Grade Combinations for 2024

Transition work for 2024 grade combinations has commenced with Step Up sessions planned for later in the term. Input from students (friendships) and parents/carers will be considered, as the staff exercise their professional judgements during this process. Parents/carers have the option to provide key information that helps us make informed decisions. Please note the following:

- Input is optional and needs to be through a google form via the following link: <https://forms.gle/hKsD3PiQhHzkYcvb6>
- Comments need to be solely about your child's specific needs; requests centred on the perceived performance or personality of a particular teacher will not be considered.
- We value parent/carer input however there are no guarantees as ultimately staff must make professional judgements about grade combinations, taking into account all children's academic, social and emotional development and the current dynamics of each group.
- **The deadline is Monday 20 November at 9.00am. Late correspondence will not be taken into account as we have a set timeline to complete this important process.**
- There is a character limit of 750 per child; please be as concise as possible.
- Please refrain from sending additional emails as your thoughts about your children's placement next year will be entered on the google form for staff to consider.
- If we require any further clarification on the information provided, the relevant staff members will contact parents/carers directly.

Staff are committed to working collectively throughout this process, making the best decisions we can using our professional observations and judgements. We aim to give every child and teacher the opportunity for a positive transition. I ask for your support and trust throughout this transition process.

### World's Greatest Shave/Talent Quest

Given the predicted hot weather today, we will be holding this event inside the Learning Centre. This means there will be restrictions on who can attend, with most grades watching via a link from their classrooms. Only parents and carers of those shaving their heads, or of students performing, are able to attend in person. We will take lots of photos and videos where possible to be published later.

### Friday Assemblies – New **2.50pm** Start Time

From next week, assemblies will commence 10 minutes earlier on Fridays to ensure we finish by 3.30pm. This makes it less of a rush back to rooms in readiness for the bell. It is great to see many more parents and carers attend assembly to hear all the news from the many student presenters each week. If the weather is too hot, we would revert to the Learning Centre arrangement with a Compass Newsfeed being sent out during the morning to notify the community.

### Final Reminder for the Bell Blitz Tomorrow

Thanks to the 18 families who have signed up to tomorrow's Working Bee. If anyone else can spare an hour or two then please pop down and grab a wheelbarrow or rake to help spread the 55 cubic metres of mulch! 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.

**David Twite , Principal**

# 2023 Bell PS Calendar:

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



## NOVEMBER 2023

- Fri 10: **World's Greatest Shave Event, 2.40pm**
- Fri 10: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.40pm
- 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**

### February

- Mon 20: **District Swimming**

### 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](mailto:ivy.callander@education.vic.gov.au)  
if you have any queries.



## From the Library:

### Displays

This newsletter article is to tell you about the new displays of traditional Aboriginal items in the library and why we have them. These items include a didgeridoo, a spear, a throwing stick, a shield and two boomerangs. We added this display to acknowledge the traditional practices of the Australian Aboriginal people. These items actually weren't purchased recently, the school has had them in storage since the renovations to the main building and finally found the best spot possible for them.

In other more recent news, as of a few days ago a new tree was installed into the library. This new display's purpose is to continue making the library an engaging space for students to engage in reading.

### Book Club

We would like to thank all of you who bought books from Book Club. We have earned nearly \$800 dollars in rewards to spend on books that students have requested through our book request boxes, including lots of graphic novels and the newest treehouse books, bad guys, dragon girls and football superstars just to name a few. A big thanks to **Melanie Allen** who has spent countless hours covering the books. And our ongoing thanks to **Louise Grey** for continuing to organise the Book Club catalogue deliveries and making sure the orders arrive on time, and **Walt Grey** for sorting the books so that they go to the right students and classes.

As you can see, we are going to continue building on both the library's collection of books and the library environment to make it a calm, quiet and magical space for the whole school.

Written by the library leaders of 2023: Darcy, Jem, Maya and Flynn.





From the Specialist Team:

## SPECIALIST AWARD

The Specialist Award winners for this fortnight are...

**5C!**



A big congratulations to **5C** for winning the **Specialist Award** this week.

They've been showing the school value of **curiosity** through their learning by thinking outside the box, challenging ideas, and listening to each other. A huge effort at this time of the year. Keep up the good work!

**Lavoro brillante, 5C!**  
***The Specialists***

### #4 News and Media Literacy

It's common for kids to use images they find online for school projects or just for fun. But kids don't often understand which images are OK to use and which ones aren't. Help your students learn about the rights and responsibilities they have when it comes to the images they create and use.

#### Activity

**Read aloud:** Let's look at two pairs of pictures. In the first pair, let's find what's been changed. Then discuss why someone would change the picture. Then, let's look at the second pair: The picture was used like it was taken in a different place and time. Discuss why someone would use a picture in that way. After we discuss, let's check the solutions!

Original headline:  
Scientists make  
friendly robot



Changed headline:  
New robot gets angry  
at scientists



Original headline: A  
crowd waits for a band  
to start playing



Changed headline:  
Thousands gather  
to protest



**Answer these questions together:** Why would someone change these pictures like this? When we see people using pictures to prove something, how can we tell if they're real?

The ability to think critically and question what we read and see is becoming an important skill in our current digital age. Here are some tips to help teach your child about news and media literacy.

#### Check out these 5 tips

1

##### Encourage healthy skepticism.

Help tweens and teens analyze the messages around them -- from Instagram posts to news headlines -- and question the purpose of the words and images they see. Teach kids how to use fact-checking tools like Snopes and FactCheck.org.

2

##### Play "spot the ad."

When you see advertising on TV or a billboard, ask tweens and teens to figure out what the ad is selling. Sometimes it's obvious, and sometimes it's not. Help them explore why certain pictures, sounds, and words are used to sell certain products.

3

##### Explore different sides of a story.

Use real-life examples to help kids understand how people can view the same situation with totally different perspectives. Sibling conflict can be a great example of how two people can have wildly different opinions about the same event. Talk through controversial subjects and take turns arguing for different sides to help kids understand various viewpoints.

4

##### Play "should you share?"

Talk through the kind of content you and your tween or teen pass along to friends online. What types of things do you like to share? Do you always check to make sure something is true before you share it? How do emotions factor into your decisions to share things? Have you ever shared something and later found out it wasn't true?

5

##### Choose a variety of sources.

Show tweens and teens how you get news and information from different places, and explain how you make your choices. Ask them where they get their information and what tools they use to decide if something is credible, trustworthy, and fair. Explore a few partisan outlets together and talk about what you both notice. Discuss bias, satire, and clickbait.





**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](mailto:bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au)**

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





**GIRLS FOOTY CLINICS**  
U10, 12, 14, 16 & YOUTH GIRLS  
ALL CLINICS ARE FREE

NEW AND EXISTING PLAYERS WELCOME. BRING A FRIEND. BUILD CONFIDENCE. DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS. COME TO HAVE FUN!

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 22, 29 NOVEMBER AND 6 DECEMBER, 5PM – 6PM

WHERE: MP ZWAAR RESERVE, CHR JESSIE & CRAMER STREETS, PRESTON (ENTER VIA BRUCE STREET)

TO REGISTER FOLLOW THE LINK [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/PZWWRQZZVYHKKYLPQ](https://forms.gle/PZWWRQZZVYHKKYLPQ) OR USE THE QR CODE

