



*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:

Management of COVID 19 in Schools

Further to our post to the community last night, an overview of the process for schools with a positive COVID case onsite is set out below, to provide parents/carers with greater clarity regarding our management of a positive COVID-19 case.

1. Schools alert DET as soon as they become aware that a student, parent, contractor or other member of the school community has tested positive to COVID-19, but only where the case was onsite within 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
2. DET may instruct the school to close for an initial 24 hours to allow for identification and notification of primary/secondary close contacts. *Please note that we **have not** been instructed to close, as cleaning and contact identification has already taken place.*
3. Schools contact the identified Primary Close Contacts (PCCs) and provide instructions regarding getting tested as soon as possible and quarantining until further guidance is provided by the Department of Health (DH). In primary schools, PCCs are likely to be limited to those in the same class as the confirmed COVID-19 case.
4. The school will complete the identification process using a spreadsheet provided by DET to determine PPCs. The completed spreadsheet is returned to DET who forward it to the local public health unit of DH.
5. The Department of Health will send an SMS to the PCCs advising them of their quarantine, testing and release dates. Primary school PCCs will be asked to isolate until they clear a Day 13 test. If unvaccinated, they will be required to isolate for 14 days and can return to school after a Day 13 test. *Please note that the quarantining requirements for PCCs are changing with the Rapid Antigen Testing Program being rolled out from November 15, however we are currently unsure whether this option will be made available to our Year 1 and 2 families.* Students who were deemed PCCs will need to show evidence of their test status when they return to school.
6. Once cleaning has occurred and contact identification completed the school can reopen, if it had closed, and **all eligible students and staff who were not identified as PCCs are able to attend onsite.**

We have directly contacted all families of children in the Year 1 and Year 2 class who have been identified as a PCC. In those particular grades, they will be isolating for the required time as set out by the Department of Health (DH). The families in both impacted grades were given detailed instructions last night and will be supported by the school and DH throughout their isolation period. From Monday, these classes will return to remote and flexible learning while students are required to quarantine. Correspondence will be sent to families this afternoon with further details.

Schools who have active cases and are undertaking this process are involved in regular briefings at a regional level to provide relevant support and additional advice each day. We will continue to provide the community with updated information as needed.

If you or anyone in your family develops even the mildest of symptoms, please get tested.

We understand this is a concerning time for the community, so please do not hesitate to contact the school if the information above needs clarification *after* seeking advice from the DET COVID hotline via the contact details below.

The Department of Education and Training COVID-19 hotline is **1800 338 663** and is available from 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday through Friday, and 10.00am - 3.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

Rapid Antigen Testing Program

As reported in the media earlier this week, the Department of Education and Training is currently working with the Department of Health to roll-out a state-wide program for any new COVID-19 exposures on school sites from Monday 15 November. The at-home Rapid Antigen Testing program is an **opt-in** program for unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated, students identified as a primary close contact (PCC) of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

As of Monday 15 November, Rapid Antigen Tests, along with test administration and interpretation information, would be provided to families who choose to opt-in to the program, **if** there were to be an exposure at our school after this date.

As the roll out for this is scheduled for Monday, at this stage we are unsure whether this will be made available to the Year 1 and 2 families notified last night that their child has been identified as a as primary close contact (PCC) of a confirmed COVID-19 case. During a DET briefing today, it was indicated that there may be information provided to us over the weekend. As soon as any information is made available to us, we will contact the families of PCCs directly if there is a change to quarantine requirements.

Please see attached document for further information regarding the Rapid Antigen Testing Program.

David's Absence

In recent days, David has been absent as he has had some minor surgery. All has gone well and he is on the mend. On behalf of the Bell community, I would like to express our best wishes to David for a quick recovery. We anticipate he will return early next week.

Parent Payments

During the week, information on voluntary 2022 Financial Contributions was sent out to parents/carers for each specific year level.

While a Parent Payment Form will be sent home at the beginning of the 2022 school year, with a summary of the voluntary financial contributions recommended for us to continue to provide quality programs with adequate resourcing, we are no longer able to provide parents/carers with a statement of fees.

Included in the document was a list of the items that the school recommend you purchase from Complete Office Supplies (COS) for your child to use and own for the 2022 school year. COS is a 100% Australian Family Owned & Operated school supplier that we have been working with to select the list of items your child needs to start the year if you choose to take this option.

Orders through COS are delivered direct to your home before school starts ***however there are cut off dates***. We recommend that if you choose to purchase your child's stationery pack with COS, that you place your order by ***Sunday 9 January 2022***. Alternatively, families may choose to provide similar/same items yourself through an alternative supplier for your child to own and use throughout the year.

Grade Combinations for 2022

Staff have commenced preparation work for developing our 2022 class combinations. As mentioned in last week's newsletter and sent out in a Compass post on Wednesday, parents/carers have the option to provide key information that helps us make an informed decision about 2022 grade combinations. Input is ***optional*** and must be through the Google Form via the following link: <https://forms.gle/eumq5FpdxsFqG3Pw7>

- 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 ***Thursday 18 November***. Late correspondence will not be taken into account as we have a set timeline to finalise this important process.
- There is a character limit so please be as concise as possible.

- Please refrain from sending additional emails to teachers, leadership or the school account 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 and consistently throughout this process, making the best decision we can using our professional observations and judgements. The goal is to give every child and teacher in every grade the opportunity for a positive and predictable start to their next year at Bell after another challenging year involving remote and flexible learning. We continue to ask for your support and trust throughout the transition process.

AGM/Community Forum

Our AGM/Community Forum is scheduled for 7:00pm, Thursday 25 November. To enable us to determine the number of attendees at our AGM/Community Forum and whether we are able to conduct this in person (based on density limits) or online, we ask that you please **RSVP your attendance** with the office at bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au **by Friday 19 November**.

Key topics to be presented include:

- 2020 Annual Report to the Community
- School Review and 2021-2024 School Strategic Plan
- Gym/Hall Building Update
- School Communication

In addition, small group sessions to discuss the above topics, as well as Teaching and Learning, Student Voice and Agency and Wellbeing, will be a focus for the evening.

Leaving Bell at the End of the Year?

To assist us with 2022 planning, we ask that families who are leaving Bell PS let their grade teacher/s and/or the office staff know as soon as possible. Regardless of the reason, the earlier we know of family departures the more accurate our grade structures, staffing arrangements and student allocations can be. If your child is leaving Bell at the end of the year (**not** our Grade 6 students) we ask that you please complete a Student Transfer Form at the front office at your earliest convenience.

Optional 2022 Prep Transition Session

On Wednesday morning we held an optional transition session for our 2022 preps to become familiar with the school and classroom environment. Despite the weather, we had a great turnout and parents/carers were able to meet other Prep families, while our 2022 Prep students were able to make connections with peers and our current prep teachers.

Emma Heywood
Assistant Principal

From the Office:

Event Payments/Consents:

EXCURSIONS ARE NOW A TWO STEP PAPERLESS PROCESS:

1. All Event Consents are to be provided online on Compass
2. All Event Payments are to be paid on Qkr!

Payments/Consents Due or Outstanding:

ITEM: (listed under <i>Payments</i> in Qkr!)	DUE BY:	AMOUNT:	METHOD:
Prep, 1, 2, 3: Essential Student Learning Items (<i>stationery</i>) per child	Wed 19 May	\$125	Qkr!
Prep, 1, 2, 3: Essential Learning Items (<i>bulk/online</i>) per child	Wed 19 May	\$100	Qkr!
Gr 4, 5, 6: Essential Student Learning Items (<i>stationery</i>) per child	Wed 19 May	\$115	Qkr!
Gr 4, 5, 6: Essential Learning Items (<i>bulk/online</i>) per child	Wed 19 May	\$90	Qkr!
All Grades: Educational Program Voluntary Contribution per child	Wed 19 May	\$55	Qkr!
ITEM: (listed under <i>Excursions</i> in Qkr!)	DUE BY:	AMOUNT:	METHOD:
Grade 4: Camp Maldon	Mon 22 Nov	\$290	Qkr!
Grade 5: Camp Anglesea	Fri 26 Nov	\$245	Qkr!

Cancelled Events

Due to the cancellation of Winter Sport, Bell Grade 4-6 Athletics, and Grade 4 Swimming, some parents would have received a request for instruction for the funds already paid for these events. Thank you to the families who have already provided instruction. If you haven't already done so, please return the forms to Jo Taylor at joanne.taylor4@education.vic.gov.au.

Family Accounts

We have contacted families who have their Bell PS account in credit. If you haven't already replied, please do so via email (joanne.taylor4@education.vic.gov.au) to advise how you would like your funds managed: either donation or refund (please include account details). Thank you.

Grade 4 Camp Payments

As Grade 4 Camp Maldon is scheduled to proceed, please check your Qkr! or Credit Card history before paying for this camp to avoid a duplicate payment. To check your Qkr! history, tap on the three bars at the top left of the home page in your app. The 'My Receipts' option should be helpful in checking your payment history. As Camp was originally planned for June, you may have to go back a bit. Your Bank Statement is another option.

Please ensure you provide consent for camp via Compass.

From the Office:

2021 Calendar – Term 4:

NOVEMBER

- Wed 17: Prep (2022) Transition #1, 9.30am-10.30am
- Sat 20: Term 4 Book Club Orders CLOSE
- **Mon 22: Curriculum Day #4 – Pupil Free**
- Tue 23: **Grade 6:** Bully Zero W/shop 'New Beginnings'
- Wed 24: Prep (2022) Transition #2, 9.30am-10.30am
- Thu 25: AGM / Community Forum
- Mon 29 – Wed 1 Dec: **Grade 4** Camp Maldon

DECEMBER

- Wed 1: Prep (2022) Transition #3, 9.30am-10.30am
- Fri 3: Drop Off Donations for Fete, 8.30-10.00am
- Tue 7: Prep (2022) Parent/Carer Info Evening #2, 6.00pm
- Wed 8 – Fri 10: **Grade 5** Camp Anglesea
- Wed 8: Prep (2022) Transition #4, 9.30am-10.30am
- Thu 9: Bell Swimming Carnival, Oak Park Aquatic Centre
- Tue 14: **Grade 6** Graduation
- Wed 15: Optional #2 Prep (2022) Transition Session, 4-5.30pm
- Thu 16: **Grade 6** Celebration @ Luna Park
- **Fri 17: Final Day Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal**

2022 Calendar – Term 1:

JANUARY

- **Fri 28: Curriculum Day #1 – Pupil Free**
- Mon 31: **Grades 1-6:** First Day of Term 1
- Mon 31: **Grade Prep** Drop In Day

FEBRUARY

- Tue 1: **Prep Group A:** First Day of Term 1
- Wed 2: **Prep Group B:** First Day of Term 1
- Thu 3: **All Grade Preps** attend together

MARCH

- **Sat 5: Bell Community Carnival (Fete)**
- **Mon 14: Labour Day Public Holiday**

APRIL

- **Fri 8: Final Day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal**

2022 School Terms:

- Term 1: Monday 31 January to Friday 8 April
- Term 2: Tuesday 26 April to Friday 24 June
- Term 3: Monday 11 July to Friday 16 September
- Term 4: Monday 3 October to Friday 20 December

New School Uniforms - PSW:

To purchase new Bell PS School Uniforms, please see the PSW website [here](#) or phone 9768 0381 with any enquiries.

Second Hand School Uniforms:

At this stage, the Second Hand Uniform Shop will be taking bookings (via the office on 9480 5622) for **Prep Transition Sessions only**. If anybody has uniforms to donate – maybe the kids have grown out of their uniforms during lockdown!!! – please drop them into the office anytime. Please note we are only accepting **Bell-logoed** tops, but will accept any good quality pants, skirts, dresses, etc.



From the Specialist Team:

*Ask not what your class can do for you –
ask what you can do for your class*



METAL OF HONOUR

Bell Primary School's

Specialist Honourary Award

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MUSIC, ART & ITALIAN

Every plus one counts

Metal of Honour Specialist Session

3/4A had their Specialist award from the Metal of Honour on Friday. They were the winners of the award in Term 2 and chose to do some sport activities on a beautiful sunny day.

- Josh, Ms. Corinne, Signora Elyssa and Ms. S.



Scholastic Book Club – Term 4 Closing Date:

Don't miss out.

Term 4's Scholastic Book Club closing date is SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER!

 SCHOLASTIC

 **Book Club**



16 weeks to our Fete - Let's Get Going.....

Information will now be sent regularly on things you can all do to contribute to this event which will include bringing things in to sell and win.

Sign Up Genius out soon for you to register where you will help on the day

Questions and Offers of Help please contact us on bellprimaryfete@gmail.com

Last Donation Day for Bric a Brac - Fri Dec 3rd 8.30 - 10am

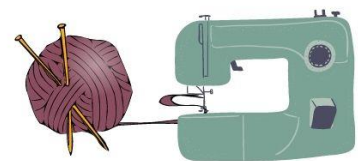
Entertainment

Cool tunes and great voices ... do you know anyone who might like to perform and create an awesome and diverse vibe for the day?



Get Crafting

Sew, glue gun, paint, knit and glitter items of your imagination for us to sell at the craft stall. Be in contact with us to be connected to other crafters.



Bottle Some Preserves

Get your pickle on and cook up a chutney, jam or preserve with all new season fruit and vegetables.

New jars only please!



Planting ?

Green and even black thumbs get some cuttings in a little pot. If things are flowering now and might not be for March 5th, take a photo, we can pop it on the pot to look pretty!



From the Wellbeing Office: Child Safe

Bell Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Bell Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability and children who are vulnerable.

Every person involved in Bell Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

On arrival at Bell Primary School, all volunteers, visitors and contractors **must** make contact with the office, sign in at the front desk and wear a visitor's badge while on site.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see specific policies on our website.



Parentline:

Parentline is a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old. They offer confidential and anonymous counselling and support on parenting issues.

What they do:

The qualified counsellors are available to:

- talk about any issues to do with parenting and relationships
- help with ways to cope and be a positive parent
- help with families' wellbeing and resilience
- connect parents with services in their area.

Your call:

- Calls are confidential and anonymous.
- Calls are not time limited and parents can call back as often as needed.
- Qualified and experienced counsellors have social work or psychology backgrounds.

Some reasons to ring Parentline include:

- child behaviour and development
- parent / carer child relationships
- education
- bullying
- living with teenagers
- family violence
- family breakdown
- parental stress



Support for your kids to get active

Does your child love sport and being active? Does your family have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card? You may be eligible for up to \$200 to put towards the cost of your child's participation in physical activities.

As children return to sport over the coming months, the Get Active Kids Voucher Program helps [eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation activities](#).

Under the program, children may be eligible to receive up to \$200 to help with the cost of membership and registration fees, uniforms, and equipment. The program also provides a special consideration stream to support children residing in care services as well as temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants or international students.

Applications for vouchers in round three of the program close at 5pm Tuesday 30 November. For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit the [Get Active Victoria website](#).

