



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:

School Review

Our School Review was completed last Friday. The reviewer is currently finalising her report which will be shared with School Council. Following this, our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan will be developed and, once complete, key elements will be shared with the school community.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

As part of the Victorian Government's student mental health and wellbeing reforms, next year we will receive funding to implement the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL). This dedicated role focuses on promoting a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing, ensuring that every student feels supported, safe and ready to thrive.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader focuses on building a culture of wellbeing across the school. With quarantined time to lead meaningful initiatives, the role includes:

- Building Staff Capacity: Delivering professional learning and support to help staff respond effectively to student wellbeing needs.
- Whole-School Approach: Planning and coordinating strategies that promote wellbeing for all students.
- Creating Care Pathways: Supporting the development of clear referral processes for students needing additional support.
- Supporting Teachers: Assisting teachers to implement evidence-based strategies and classroom wellbeing supports.
- Embedding Mental Health Literacy: Promoting understanding, awareness and positive attitudes toward mental health across the school community.

To ensure clarity, this role does not:

- Provide clinical or therapeutic interventions.
- Assess or diagnose the mental health of individual students.

We are delighted to announce that Ivy Callander has been successfully appointed to this role. Ivy is a committed teacher and valued member of our school community. She will bring her expertise and passion to strengthen wellbeing across the school while also contributing to the leadership team.

Ivy will work closely with Xenia Matani, our current Learning Specialist for Engagement and Wellbeing. Further details about their individual responsibilities will be shared once role clarity is finalised, to ensure parents and carers are fully informed.

Prep-Grade 5 Transition

The first of our three 'Step-Up' transition sessions for students in Grades Prep–5 will begin next week, providing an opportunity for students to become familiar with their next year level. On Thursday, students will move up as a class for a session and participate in a literacy-based activity. The aim of the first and second transition sessions is to ensure continuity of learning and help students feel confident and comfortable. These sessions give students a preview of the Literacy and Numeracy content in their next year level, helping to ease any anxiety about the year ahead and reassuring them that the work will be manageable and achievable.

Parent/Carer Helper Morning Tea Reminder

We are incredibly grateful to our parent and carer volunteers for sharing their time, skills and support this year, whether in classrooms, on excursions, helping with events, or contributing to committees.

A reminder that to show our appreciation, you are invited to a Volunteer Morning Tea on **Friday 5 December**, 10:00am–11:00am in the Gym foyer.

Emma Heywood

Principal

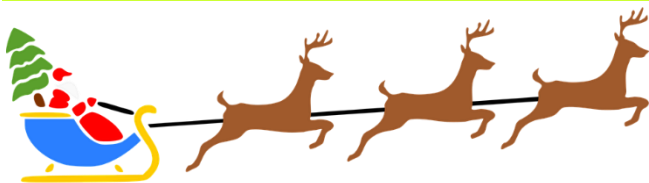
2025 / 2026 Calendars

November 2025

Fri 14: **Gr6** Coburg High School Excursion \$0
 Fri 14: **Prep** Ceres Excursion \$38.50
 Tue 18: **Gr4** Celebration of Learning
 Tue 18: **Gr5** Camp Info Session, 5pm, online
 Wed 19: *2026 Prep Transition Session #2*
 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
Wed 19: **Crazy Hair Day – Gold Coin Donation**
Thu 20: **Whole School Transition Day #1**
 Tue 25: Funkey Music EOY Concert, LC
 Wed 26: *2026 Prep Transition Session #3*
 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
Thu 27: **Whole School Transition Day #2**
 Sun 30: Scholastic Book Club Orders Close 9pm

December 2026

Mon 1-Wed 3: **Gr5** Camp Anglesea \$472
 Tue 2: **Gr2** Celebration of Learning
 Tue 2: *2026 Prep Parent/Carer Information Evening #2*
 (Bell PS Learning Centre, 6.00)
 Wed 3: *2026 Prep Transition Session #4*
 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
 Wed 3: International Day of People with a Disability
Fri 5: **Parent/Carer Volunteer Morning Tea, 10am, Gym**
 Fri 5: International Day of People with a Disability
 Incursion – Whole School - \$3
 Fri 5: *2026 Prep Starting School Information*
 will be made available on Compass
Tue 9: **Whole School Transition Day #3 (meet the teacher!)**
 Tue 9: Statewide **Gr6** to Yr7 Transition Day
 Tue 9: *2026 Prep Families Optional Welcome BBQ*
 (4.00-6.00, Bell PS – location tba)
 Wed 10: **Gr3** Celebration of Learning
 Thu 11: **Gr1** Celebration of Learning
 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**



2026

January 2026

Tue 27: **Statewide Curriculum Day (pupil-free)**
 Grade 1-6 families welcome to drop in to their new classrooms **between 2.40-3.30**

Wed 28: **Grades 1-6 commence**
 Wed 28: Prep Drop In Day (scheduled times only)
Thu 29: **Prep Group A commence**
Fri 30: **Prep Group B commence**

February 2026

Wed 4: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
 Wed 11: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
 Wed 18: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
 Wed 25: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)

Prep students attend on only one of the Wednesdays in February, at the time scheduled for their Prep Entry Assessment

March 2026

Fri 06: **Curriculum Day (pupil free)**
Mon 09: **Labour Day Holiday**

April 2026

Thu 02: *Last Day Term 1 - Happy Holidays!*
Mon 20: *First Day Term 2*

May 2026

Fri 22: **Curriculum Day (pupil free)**

June 2026

Mon 08: **King's Birthday Holiday**
Tue 09: **Curriculum Day (pupil free)**
Fri 26: *Last Day Term 2 - Happy Holidays!*

July 2026

Mon 13: *First Day Term 3*

August 2026

September 2026

Fri 18: *Last Day Term 3 - Happy Holidays!*

October 2026

Mon 05: *First Day Term 4*

November 2026

Mon 02: **Common Professional Practice Day (pupil free)**
Tue 03: **Melbourne Cup Day Holiday**

December 2026

Fri 18: *Last Day Term 4 - Happy Holidays!*



Back to School

Find and order your
child's school pack
in less than **4 minutes!**



 A family
owned
Australian
business

Username:

Password:

 parent.cos.net.au |  1300 79 27 85 |  parentportal@cos.net.au

To ensure delivery before the start of Term 1 2026, please place your order before Monday 5 January.
Orders placed after this date may not arrive on time for the beginning of Term 1.

Helpful Info From the Office:

Office Hours: 8.00am – 4.30pm

Lu Paglia, Business Manager:	School Council, Finance, Fundraising	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
Jo Taylor, Finance Administration:	Events, Payments, SSB, CSEF	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 😊

SSB Use for School Activities – URGENT UPDATE**

Due to a DET issue, schools are currently unable to view SSB balances or allocate SSB to events. Until we receive an update from DET, families are requested to pay for all events. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

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.

Uniforms

- 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 *before* 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/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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please see the Community tab on our website 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



More Helpful Info From the Office:

Lunch Utensils

If you are sending your child/ren to school with delicious food that requires a spoon or fork, please include a spoon or fork in their lunchbox! Much appreciated.



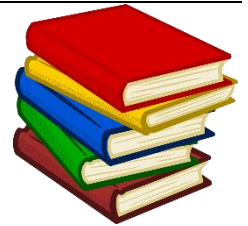
Sign Ins and Sign Outs

To ensure the important details of a late arrival or early departure are correct, please do not allow your child/ren use the kiosk at the front desk. *The kiosk is not to be used by students.*

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



Working With Children Checks + Volunteer Inductions

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.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: All school volunteers must also have completed the OHS Volunteer Induction process, and returned their Induction Checklist to the office, to be able to volunteer.

Head Lice



Once again, head lice are doing the rounds at Bell. **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 quickly and 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 Specialist Team:



The Specialist Award winners for this fortnight are...

Prep A!

A big congratulations to Prep A!

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 the STEAM Room:

This week we received the long-awaited and highly anticipated new batch of caterpillars. Over the next month or so, all the students will be able to observe the stages of their life cycle as they metamorphose from pupae to butterflies! Two lucky classes will then take part in the Great Butterfly Release of 2026. In the meantime, we'll be checking in with them and adding to our understandings as we study the observable features of living things, their needs and their habitats.

Jack Fray
STEAM Specialist



From the Art Room:

This term, the **Preps** have been designing an *Under the Sea* themed artwork and experimenting with watercolour techniques and oil pastels.





The **Grade 1s and 2s** have used modelling clay to create a landscape inspired by French Impressionism. They used layers, textures, marbling and mixing to create eye-catching landscapes.





Our **Grade 5 and 6** artists have brought famous artworks to life in three dimensions using polymer clay. They experimented with techniques such as layering, building structures with foil and wire, rolling, marbling, and creating unique textures. See if you can guess the inspiration behind the clay model!

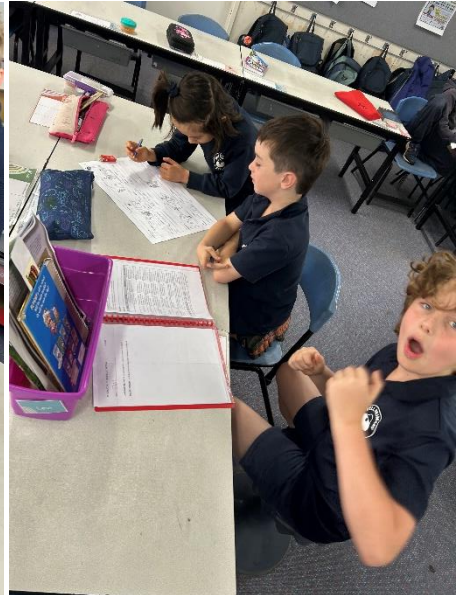
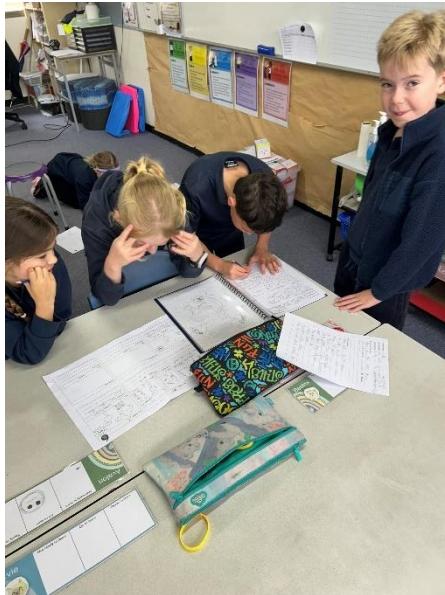


From the Grade 3 Team:

This Term in the land of Inquiry in 3C, we have been learning how to use and create Stop Motion animations, linking in with our writing focus. We are learning how important planning is to the whole process. We have enjoyed working in small groups to design and create a short story that we are turning into a Stop Motion animation. The first step has been working collaboratively in our groups to complete a story board and list all the materials we will need. We're currently creating all the props before we start recording our Stop Motions next week.

James Lakin

3C Classroom Teacher



Final Book Club of the Year – Coming Soon:

**ISSUE 8
OPEN NOW!**

\$5 Earn a **PROMO CODE**
Included with order confirmation

SCHOLASTIC Book Club
Stories that travel with you!

ORDERS DUE BACK BY:

001 **NEW!** **DOG MAN** Big Jim Believes
The Space Cuties from 224 pp hardcover. AGES 7+
SAVE 42% **\$14.00**

002 **NEW!** **Zootopia 2: The Movie Novel**
A mysterious reptile is turning the city upside down! 144 pp. AGES 7+ \$12.99 **\$9**

003 **HALF PRICE!** **NEW!** **HAS SANTA BEEN?**
Santa enjoys a drink in each house he visits... and now he needs a wee! 32 pp hardcover. AGES 2+ \$19.99 **\$10**

004 **NEW!** **HOTDOG & Friends, Fun Park!**
The perfectly planned picnic quickly turns into a disaster! 24 pp hardcover. AGES 3+ \$19.99 **\$12.00**

005 **SAVE \$8.99**
Spy (Classified) Lockbox
Everything...

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

HELP US GROW OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Book Club catalogues were handed out to students recently. By ordering books in this particular edition, you can help Bell Primary get extra books for our library.

For this edition only, Bell makes DOUBLE the rewards. We are trying to achieve a target of \$6000 for this edition. If we can reach that, Bell will get \$2000 to spend on books for the library.

Plus, our Library Leaders have undertaken to give every student who orders from the catalogue a sticker.

You can order online at www.scholastic.com.au/loop and must be submitted by 9pm on Sunday 30 November.



Meet Sarah Peters, 5A Classroom Teacher

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

For a while I wanted to be a zookeeper! Then a teacher, and afterwards a writer or an editor. I think I always knew I would come back to teaching. I definitely got the best of all my options!

What inspired you to become a teacher?

Two people inspired me. My Nana was a teacher when she was younger, and she was the one who fostered my love of reading. And one of my secondary school teachers, "Anchors", who helped us explore hidden meaning in words. Both excellent humans who I wanted to follow!

What is your favourite quote?

"Though she be but little, she is fierce" from Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' Courage and bravery come from within, not how tall or strong a person is.

What would we find you doing outside of school hours?

I love a market, spending time with friends, playing board games or reading one of my many, many books!

Favourite teaching moment?

I won't forget the day that I met my first class. 23 Bell kids huddled around me asking what they would call me next year!



Meet Athena Vounisios, 1B Classroom Teacher

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I've always wanted to be a teacher since I was little!

What inspired you to become a teacher/work in a school?

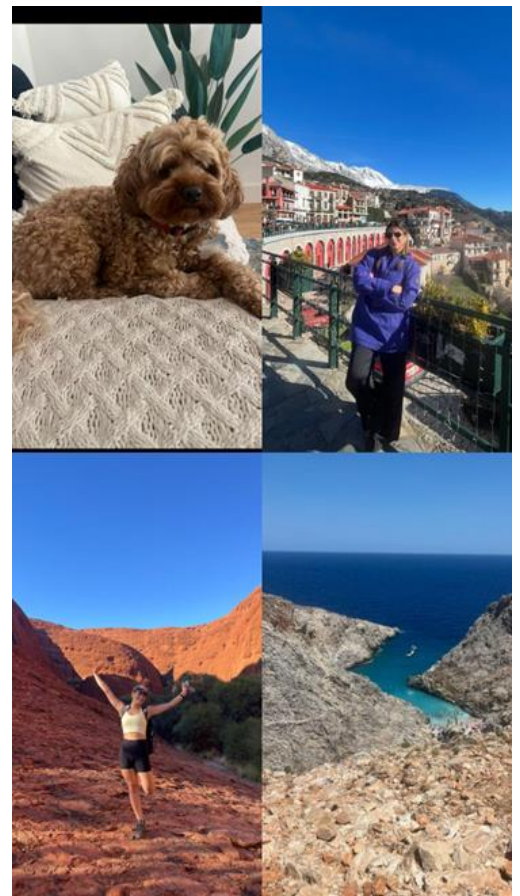
Growing up, I was lucky enough to have teachers who were warm, positive and passionate about their work. It was clear that they loved what they did and found great reward in helping students succeed. Now that I'm in this position myself, I've come to understand that same sense of fulfilment; seeing moments of growth in my students is a powerful reflection of my efforts and one of the many reasons I look forward to coming to work each day.

What is your favourite quote?

"You can never know the odds; if you don't play, you'll never win." Above & Beyond

What would we find you doing outside of school hours?

I enjoy travelling, being in nature (hiking), going to music events and playing with my dog Argo!



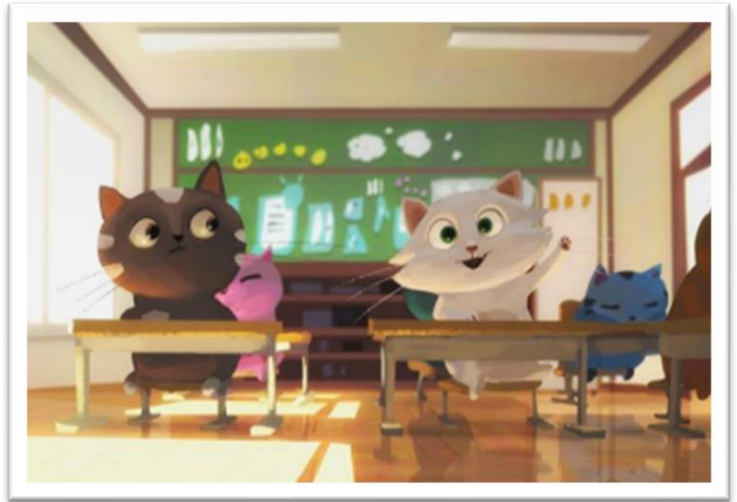
Journalist Club Writing Competition - Grades Prep-2:

Judges: Journalist Club

Instructions:

1. Write a short story (one page max) using the image below as inspiration.
2. Print it out then deliver it to Mr Lakin (Gr 3) or Miss Meredith (Gr 5) by Friday 21 November.

Be creative and detailed (describe the setting and characters with words and pictures).
One winner per year level and the winning stories will be published in the Newsletter.



This is the image you will write a story inspired by.

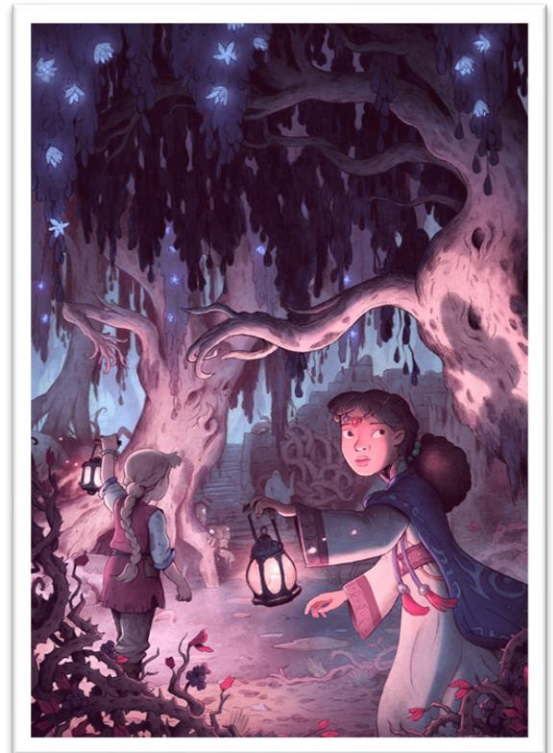
Journalist Club Writing Competition - Grades 3-6:

Judges: Journalist Club

Instructions:

1. Write a short story (one page max) using the image below as inspiration.
2. Print it out then deliver it to Mr Lakin (Gr 3) or Miss Meredith (Gr 5) by Friday 21 November.

Be creative and detailed - describe the setting and characters!
One winner per year level and the winning stories will be published in the Newsletter.



This is the image you will write a story inspired by.



 **CYSTIC FIBROSIS**

**WE'RE
HAVING A
CRAZY
HAIR
DAY FOR
CYSTIC FIBROSIS**

**FOR A GOLD COIN DONATION, COME TO
SCHOOL WITH CRAZY HAIR ON**

Wednesday 19 November



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!

One Key Role to Fill

Entertainment Coordinator

Book and manage our stage performers and keep the day lively.

.....

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! ✨

TEAMKIDS

NEWSLETTER

WEEK 6
TERM 4



Universal Children's Day

On Thursday, 20th November, we will celebrate Universal Children's Day with a fun-filled musical-themed play session, where children will get to explore, create, and perform through music! Children will have the chance to choose and participate in a variety of musical activities, including:

- Name That Tune - Guess the song from short snippets and dance or clap along to the beat.
- Musical Statues / Freeze Dance - Dance freely and freeze when the music stops.
- Draw Your Favourite Musician or Character - Create a colourful portrait of a favourite musician or musical character.
- Mindful Listening & Snack - Enjoy a healthy snack while listening carefully to calming music, noticing rhythm and instruments.
- DIY Instruments & Rhythm Games - Make simple instruments from recycled materials and play along to a beat. Children will also create microphones from recycled paper rolls to use in our Week 10 musical performance.
- Musical Story Mural - Work together to create a mural inspired by music, featuring instruments, dancers, or scenes that the songs inspire.
- Musical Chairs with a Twist - A fun take on musical chairs where children complete mini challenges when the music stops.
- Share & Celebrate - Showcase portraits, play DIY instruments, or perform a short song or dance. Finish with a group cheer to celebrate creativity and teamwork.

We look forward to a joyful afternoon of music, creativity, and collaboration, where children can express themselves and celebrate the importance of every child through play, art, and music!

Service Mobile: 0434 416 584
Office Phone: 1300 035 000

Upcoming

November

- Universal Children's Day: Honouring the rights and voices of children everywhere.
- National Fairy Bread Day: A sprinkle of colour and lots of joy.

December

- Elf on the Shelf: Kits handed out at our PD Day to spread festive cheer.
- Festive Feel Good Friday: A celebration of kindness, giving, and gratitude.
- End of Year Parties: A big celebration to finish 2025 with fun, laughter, and community spirit.



Service Email: bellps@teamkids.com.au
Office Email: info@teamkids.com.au

Team Kids **BIG** playdate



20TH NOV

Get **READY** for an **EPIC** day of **FUN** as TeamKids **RE-PLAY** some of the **BIGGEST** games 🎉
From hopscotch to tag, we're **REVIVING** many playground favourites that make childhood
UNFORGETTABLE!

Join us after school on the 20th November as we make memories the old-school way ❤️

Book here ➡ <https://www.teamkids.com.au/venues/>

For the Bell Community:



Girls, IMAGINE THE FUN

Come have a Blast!

\$25 ALL GIRLS PROGRAM

Forge new friendships and have some fun at Woolworths Cricket Blast!

Join a Special Woolworths Cricket Blast for Girls aged 5-10

Cricket Victoria, Darebin Falcons & Preston Druids

On Mondays 5-6pm at AH Capp Reserve, Halwyn Cres, Preston

- 4 weeks pre-Christmas - 24 Nov, 1, 8 & 15 Dec
- 4 weeks post-Christmas - 2, 9, 16 & 23 Feb

Contact: Drew George 0401 161 535 cricket@falcons.com.au



SIGN UP TODAY!

Play Cricket

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!



JOIN PARKLANDS NETBALL CLUB IN 2026

Parklands Netball Club is an inclusive club that supports players of all abilities to meet their netball goals whilst having fun in a mixed team environment.

We are currently looking for U9, U11 & U13 players and NetSetGo Participants.

The club trains Friday afternoons from 4.30pm-5.30pm at Darebin Community Sports Stadium in Reservoir and plays Saturday mornings at:
• Narrandjeri Stadium in Thornbury
Friday afternoon NetSetGo Program also available during training times!



REGISTER NOW

MEMBERSHIPS@PARKLANDSNETBALL.COM.AU

Or contact Deb on 0409 956 248 if you have any queries.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Open Day

Childcare Kindergarten
for 3-5 years old

STEINER INSPIRED PROGRAM

Farm Animals Vists on the day!



Nature Environment
Experienced Teachers
High Staff Ratio
Hands-on Learning
Self-Driect Play

2025 | 6TH | 10:00AM
DEC | | 12:00PM

OUR LOCATION:
AT THE END OF FORD ST. PRESTON

CONTACT US 0474-227-049

wonderworldplaycenter@gmail.com

www.wonderworldplaycenter.com.au