



*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:

2024 Transition

The Transition Program for Prep to Grade 5 students will be similar to other years with three 'step-up' sessions in weeks 9, 10 and 11 to prepare students for next year. Dates for the three sessions are:

- **Tuesday 28 November** – Session 1 where students will stay in their current groupings, working with a teacher from a higher grade level for a taste of 2024 work with a *Literacy focus*.
- **Tuesday 5 December** – Session 2 is a mixed group for another taste of next year's work with a *Numeracy focus*.
- **Tuesday 12 December** – Session 3 will be with all 2024 classmates moving to their future classroom to meet their new teacher/s. The aim is to conduct some 'Getting to Know You' wellbeing and engagement activities to start building that connected classroom for a smooth transition into their next year of learning.

It is of significant benefit when parents and carers begin discussing the transition to a new year level, and probably a new teacher, as an optimistic thing. Together, from school and at home, we can support the children to embrace the challenges and exciting opportunities of a new classroom environment.

Planning for 2024

The final stages of planning for next year are in motion with the following key points:

- 2024 Preps have increased from last year to an expected enrolment around the mid-70s, meaning we will run four Prep Grades in the Learning Centre. With a number of transfers into other grade levels confirmed, we have an overall predicted number of around 450, which equates to 20 straight grades at an average of 22.5 students. We anticipate the lower grades (P-2) ranging from 18-22, with the middle and upper grades (3-6) in the mid-20s.
- The Prep Transition Program is well underway with two of the four sessions completed. The aim is to connect the new families to each other and prepare the students for their first year of school. The family BBQ in mid-December will complete the Program in the northern play space. Many Grade 5s who will be the buddy leaders next year will run some fun and family centred activities for the new Preps.
- I am currently finalising the staff profile with grade roles and specialist programs to be announced soon.

South Oval Upgrades

New soccer and Aussie rules goals posts have been installed on the South Oval this week which is another step forward in the vision for that end of the school to be our active and community focused area. The posts have the potential to be relocated when a second set of sleeves are installed, running north-south for one large game of soccer or footy. The extra sleeves will be added once the gym/hall is completed.



I am hoping to receive some positive news soon from the VSBA who are currently evaluating new tenders for the gym/hall project. As soon as the outcome is announced, I will let the community know.

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 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
- Mon 4: **FINAL DAY COMPASS CONSENT ONLY:**
Grade 6 Preston HS Transition Visit \$0
- 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: **Gr6 Graduation Mementoes via Qkr! CLOSE**
- Thu 7-Fri 8: **Grade 3** Bounce + School Sleepover
- Thu 7: **All Grade 6s** - Preston HS Transition Visit
- 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)
- Wed 13: **Grade 2** Celebration of Learning
- 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...to help with your planning:

January

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

February

- Thu 1: **Prep Staggered Starts**
- Mon 20: District Swimming, Northcote Pool

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
- Mon 21-Thu 24: **Grade 6** Camp Jungai

November

- Tue 5: *Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday*

December

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

2024 Swimming Lessons (exact dates to be confirmed):

- Grades 3-5:** Weeks 4, 5 + 6 of Term 1
- Grades Prep-2:** Weeks 2, 3 + 4 of Term 3

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.

Sustainability News:

As a part of our ResourceSmart Schools strategy, the Year 6s recently conducted a Water Audit to determine how sustainably we use water at Bell Primary School. We found out that on an average week, we use 2070kL of water – that is 2,070,000 litres of water each week or almost the amount an Olympic-sized swimming pool can hold.

After reviewing the data, the Year 6s made some suggestions about how we might be able to become more sustainable with water at Bell. The following are our recommendations:

- Educate students on the importance of using the half flush on the toilet.
- Report leaks or dripping taps to the maintenance crew.
- Fix leaks in a timely manner.
- Take water bottles outside at break times.
- Use a bucket in the art room to soak & clean brushes.
- Organise for water tanks to be in working order; use these to water gardens.
- Place tubs under drinking fountains to collect water for re-use.
- Put timers on taps/lower water pressure.
- Place signs around the school reminding students of sustainable water practices.
- Action team to present findings and possible actions to leadership team.
- Announcements at Assembly.
- Newsletter items informing school community of our findings and vision.
- Classes could do a lesson on saving water.

An Action Team presented our data and recommendations to David & Emma, who endorsed most of our suggestions. Now the real work begins!



The Action Team

If you would like to read more, click on the following link: [Water Audit](#)

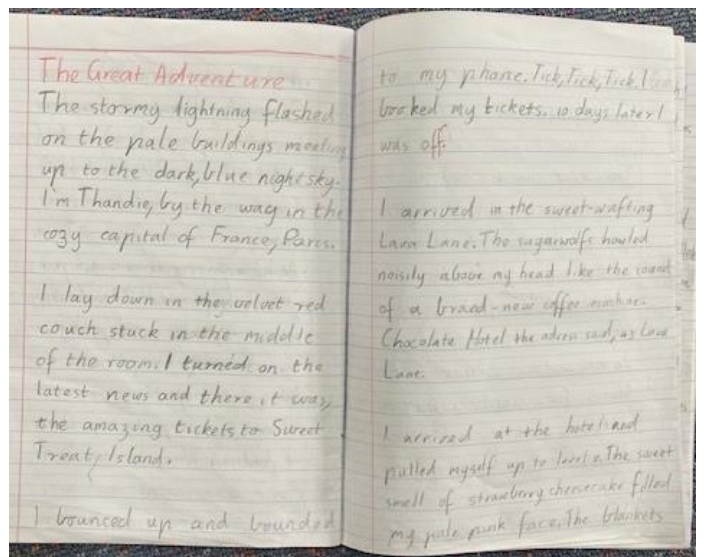
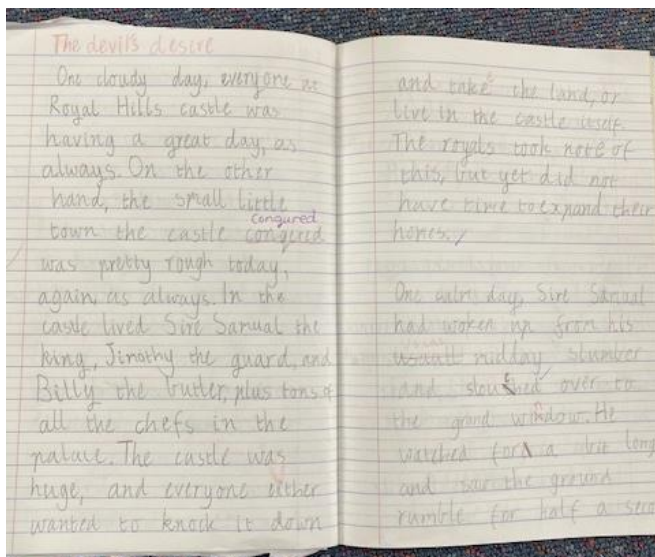
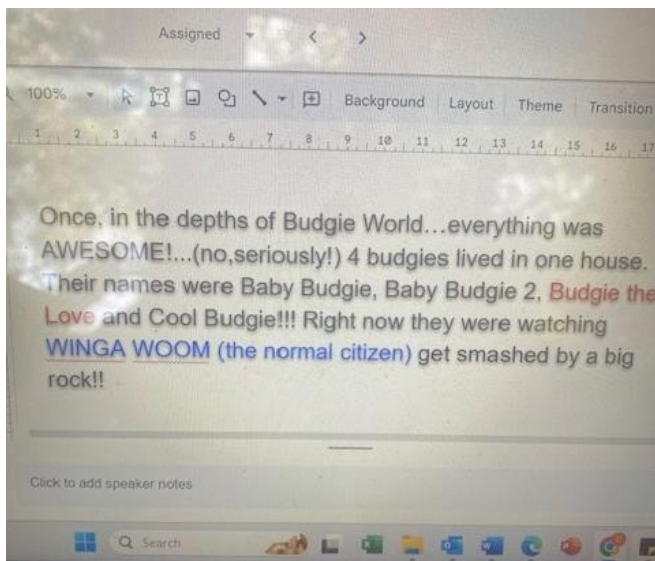
From Grade 3C:

Term 4 Learning Reflection

Over the past few weeks, the Year 3s have been learning how to write narratives. We have been planning, drafting, editing and now publishing our stories on the computers. We have been learning how to add figurative language to make our stories more interesting to the reader. As a class we have enjoyed hearing about all the fictional worlds and being enthralled by the descriptive words!


"We enjoyed expressing our ideas creatively through writing our narratives and can't wait to share them with everyone at assembly next week!" - Eira, Opella and Oscar

Claire Strasser, 3C Teacher



From the Sustainability Team:

End of Year = Excess Stationery? Exercise books, pencils, rulers, etc?



Do you have excess stationery?

Why not donate it to Project Stationery?

When: December, January & February

Where: Shop front at the Alphington Farmer's Market.
Melbourne Innovation Centre, 2 Wingrove St, Alphington VIC 3078

Accepting: All types of new & used stationery in good condition including half-used exercise books.
No lever arch folders or binders please.
Please see list for all accepted items.

Opening Hours from December 3rd to February 28th:
Sundays 9am - 1pm
Wednesdays 9am - 1pm

Stationery will be collated & redistributed to not-for-profit organisations.
Our aim is to share resources and minimise waste.



ITEMS WE ACCEPT

YES PLEASE: NEW & USED	NO THANK YOU
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pens• pencils• textas• highlighters• board markers• rulers• glue sticks• erasers• sharpeners• exercise books*• sketch books*• scrapbooks*• notepads *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• binders• lever arch folders• broken or damaged stationery

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
projectsharestationery@gmail.com

*Please tear out any used pages

Bell Primary will be collecting stationery for the Project Stationery drive to redistribute surplus supplies via not-for-profit organisations for the remainder of Term 4. Please see the list above for what can and cannot be donated.

When?

From Monday 27 November to the end of Term 4.

Where?

In marked tubs in the Office Foyer.

Can you help?

Are you able to help deliver collected stationery to the Alphington Farmer's Market collection point on Wednesdays or Sundays?

Thank you! Please complete this form to get in touch:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoi8cJySMtYcELJ9GpkrMqioMQo-KEv55y8o6FvyA_pL0fw/viewform?usp=pp_url



Grade 6 Parents – Compass Reminder

Please start thinking about printing off any school reports or documents you wish to keep, as your Grade 6 child will no longer have a Bell Compass Account after the last day of school this year.

From the ICT Team:

#6 Cyberbullying and Hate Speech

Unfortunately with the increasing use of social media and online gaming, some kids find it difficult to keep things positive. Kids may encounter mean behaviour at some point during their digital lives. For some of us, these experiences are a blip and are easily forgotten, while for others it may be ongoing and can have long lasting effects. For parents, the key is to stay involved in kids' lives online and off so that they are understanding of their kids' online footprints.

Try these tips:

1.) Define your terms

Make sure kids understand what cyberbullying is: repeated and unwanted mean or hurtful words or behaviour that occur online.

2.) Check in about online life

Ask who they have been talking to or playing online games with.

3.) Role-play

Talk through different scenarios and role-play ways they can make an exit.

4.) Encourage upstanding

Let kids know that supporting a friend who is being bullied can make a big difference.

5.) Take breaks

If you notice your child is being pulled into digital drama, help them take a break. It's great if they can determine for themselves when they need to take a step back, but they might need some help setting limits.



Activity

Read aloud, step by step:

- Let's open a website or app that has chat (Roblox, Fortnite, Minecraft, Animal Jam, TikTok, or a social media app). If I don't use these, my family member can open a social media app they use.
- Each site or app is a bit different, but usually tapping on the the other person's picture or profile is the first step. Let's try it.
- Let's find the choices about blocking and reporting the other person.
- How can we turn off chat or have a private account? It's always best to only chat with people you know face-to-face.
- If we get stuck, we can use the Help section or search online for how to block and report on that site or app.

The ICT Team



COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CLUB! @ Bell Primary School

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.

8 WEEK TERM PROGRAM

Program for **Term1 2024** is as follows:

Year levels: 3 to 6

Term Fee: \$240 incl GST

AFTER SCHOOL

3:40pm – 4:40pm

BATCH

Thursdays 1st Feb to 21st Mar 2024

Fill out the form online by
Thursday 14th Dec 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/>

Wonder World Play Centre



CHILDCARE + KINDERGARTEN

3 to 5 years old
Steiner-Inspired Learning

Natural Environment

Vegetarian/Organic food

Small group 15-18 children

Educators speak Mandarin, Japanese + Tamil

Lowest fee in region

Tel: 9478 4433 / 0474 227 049

Email: info@wonderworldplaycentre.com.au

Website: www.wonderworldplaycentre.com.au

Location: At the end of Ford St. Preston

