



*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:

### Assembly Plans

There will be no assembly today, however we are planning a special end of year one starting at 12:30pm on Wednesday. With presentations, awards, farewells and performances from the Rock Band, Senior Vocal Ensemble and the Grade 6 graduates, there will be something for everybody.



Plan B if it's too hot is an earlier start at 10:30am with Compass notification to families the day before. If the rain rolls in, then plan C is the Learning Centre with limited audience as we have done before. Early forecasts are looking promising with a predicted temperature in the low 20s. Of course, this time next year we will be accustomed to indoor assemblies in the gym/hall which will be a dream.

### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

The list of people to acknowledge is a long one and to name them individually would make this the longest Bell newsletter in history. So it's a group by group thank-you from Emma and myself, to all those who help make this school a special place for the students to learn and the teachers to teach:

- The admin staff who are always there at the front office helping anyone who enters the foyer or calls on the phone or sends an email. Led by Luisa (our business manager) the team of Jessie, Jo and Tania keep the wheels turning every day in an efficient way.
- A special mention to the members of School Council for their essential role in the Governance role and to the sub-committees and working parties that have come back to life this year. Sustainability led by Ivy Callander, Diversity and Inclusion led by Mia McDonald, plus Infrastructure (to name a few) are implementing important projects to support school improvement in various ways.
- A huge shoutout to the Community Engagement and Fundraising sub-committee who have come together as a powerful and productive team to create events that not only raise money but also have re-connected the community after those isolating times of the recent past. Led by Ceinwen Jones and Vanessa Buck, we congratulate them, the event captains and the grade level reps for driving the success of the CEF in 2023.
- It's important to recognise the quiet helpers who support things such as the Scholastic Book club each month (Louise Gray and family) and the second-hand uniform volunteers being Kate Steventon in Semester 1 and Carita Kazakoff in Semester 2.
- Most importantly, Emma and I want to celebrate the dedicated and caring teaching and support staff who in turn support, guide and engage the wonderful students at Bell. The level of curiosity and creativity we see in our young people every day makes it all worthwhile no matter what challenges we face.

### Graduation

With Graduation scheduled for next Tuesday, a special Graduation newsletter edition will be published on Wednesday to celebrate the Year 6s. It will be a special night at the Northcote Theatre for all the graduating families and staff that attend.

# 2023 Bell PS Calendar:

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



## DECEMBER 2023

- Fri 15: Working Bee, B/ball Court, 9:00am
- Fri 15: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #5
- Fri 15: Icy Pole Day, Second Break, \$1 each
- 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 for **Grade 6** parents/parents of other students leaving Bell to access any information/documents on Compass
- Wed 20: **Final Day Term 4- 12:30pm Assembly, 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**
- Tue 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

As of July 10, Victorian schools are no longer required to keep official 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** 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. *Keep an eye out for 2024 dates in next year's newsletters.* Don't forget your gold coins – no credit or credit card facility is available.





# JOIN BELL PS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISING 2024

## About Us

This year the Bell Primary Community Engagement and Fundraising Group raised over \$30k which went towards furniture in the portables, and our fund to fit out the new gym hall. We're looking for new members for next year! CEF co-ordinates most social and fundraising events such as Cupcake Day, mango drive, special persons' day stalls, election day bbqs and stalls. There is also a Trivia subgroup.



## you would...

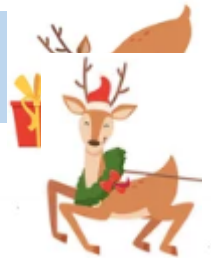
- meet about once a term to discuss and plan current and future events
- communicate about events by being a leader in your year level's what's app channel
- lead and be involved in scheduled events (both fundraising and engagement) during the year

**WE HOPE  
YOU CAN  
JOIN US!**

*We're particularly looking for yr 3 and 4 (2024) parents - but everyone is very welcome!!*

*If you're keen, please email Ceinwen Jones at [ceinwenju@gmail.com](mailto:ceinwenju@gmail.com) or feel free to reach out to any of our members via your year level what's app channel*





## 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.



# BELL PRIMARY SCHOOL BOOK AUDIT UPDATE



We have had a really positive response to our book audit, with our initial goal of 2000 books well and truly surpassed.

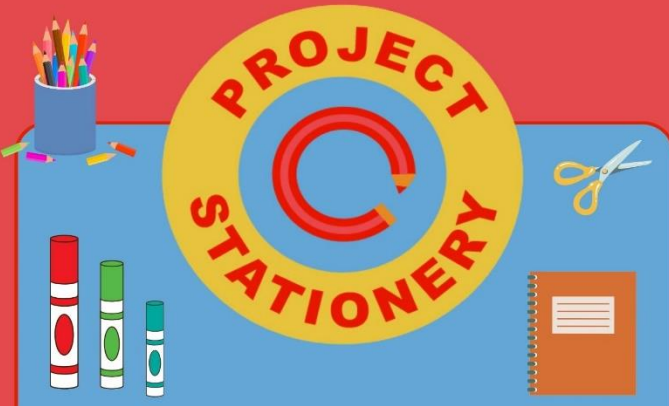

Thank-you to the parents and carers who have volunteered their time to review books- a real team effort!

We look forward to completing the audit in 2024 and refreshing the Bell library and classroom readers.





### 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"><li>• pens</li><li>• pencils</li><li>• textas</li><li>• highlighters</li><li>• board markers</li><li>• rulers</li><li>• glue sticks</li><li>• erasers</li><li>• sharpeners</li><li>• exercise books*</li><li>• sketch books*</li><li>• scrapbooks*</li><li>• notepads *</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• binders</li><li>• lever arch folders</li><li>• broken or damaged stationery</li></ul>

**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://forms.gle/ZLTabxQrABaDfwg38>

Please ensure all food complies with allergy guidelines.  
Contact your service for detailed information.

MON  
8  
JAN

### RUN AWAY TO THE CIRCUS INCURSION: SELF-GUIDED CIRCUS BUNDLE

Step right up for a self-guided Circus Bundle, providing a variety of entertaining and skill-building circus activities.



BASE FEE \$70  
EXC/INC FEE \$22  
DAILY TOTAL \$92  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$9.20

MON  
15  
JAN

### DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

Dive into the realm of fantasy! Activities may include embarking on an epic journey with The Quest, harnessing your imagination to create your own character, indulging in a grand feast fit for heroes, and immersing yourself in Live Action Role Play.



BASE FEE \$70  
DAILY TOTAL \$70  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$7.00

TUE  
9  
JAN

### EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS EXCURSION: MELBOURNE ZOO

ARRIVE BY 08:30 AM

Marvel at the wildlife at Melbourne Zoo, offering a captivating experience for animal lovers.



BASE FEE \$70  
EXC/INC FEE \$35  
DAILY TOTAL \$105  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$10.50

TUE  
16  
JAN

### SPACE CADETS EXCURSION: JUMPSIDE NINJA PARK

ARRIVE BY 08:30 AM

Join us for an indoor adventure, featuring trampolines, ninja obstacles and action-packed fun.



BASE FEE \$70  
EXC/INC FEE \$45  
DAILY TOTAL \$115  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$11.50

WED  
10  
JAN

### WILD WILD WEST

Join Us For A Rip-Roaring Wild West Adventure! Get Ready To Saddle Up For A Day Filled With Frontier Fun With Activities Such As Embarking On An Educator Bounty Hunt, Crafting Your Own Wanted Posters, Or Building A Pioneer Town.



BASE FEE \$70  
DAILY TOTAL \$70  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$7.00

WED  
17  
JAN

### FIDGET FRENZY

Dive into a world of tactile wonders! Engage your senses with activities such as crafting mesmerizing Sensory Fusion Art, designing your own DIY Fidget Spinner, unwinding with handmade Stress Balls, and having fun with Edible Slime.



BASE FEE \$70  
DAILY TOTAL \$70  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$7.00

THU  
11  
JAN

### AFRICAN SAFARI

Embark on a thrilling African Safari, where the wonders of the wild come to life. Discover activities such as the explosive Elephant Toothpaste experiment, creative Team Newspaper Animal Dress Up, the inventive Animal Home STEM Challenge, and fun-filled Animal Bingo.



BASE FEE \$70  
DAILY TOTAL \$70  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$7.00

THU  
18  
JAN

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Ready for your close-up? Step into the spotlight with activities like baking Famous Cookies, showcasing your moves in the Groove Masters Dance Challenge, belting out tunes in the Vocal Vibe Karaoke Showdown, and becoming a movie maestro with CineWhiz Kids.



BASE FEE \$70  
DAILY TOTAL \$70  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$7.00

FRI  
12  
JAN

### PIRATES INCURSION: TREASURE QUEST

Embark on a Treasure Quest, an exciting and challenging scavenger hunt that adds a sense of adventure to holiday program activities.



BASE FEE \$70  
EXC/INC FEE \$18  
DAILY TOTAL \$88  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$8.80

FRI  
19  
JAN

### KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

Let's go back in time to embark on a noble quest! Activities include crafting your own Knight Shield, feasting like royalty at a Medieval Feast, and partaking in the chivalrous Royal Tournament Games. Sharpen your swords and prepare for a day of valiant adventures and timeless tales!



BASE FEE \$70  
DAILY TOTAL \$70  
AFTER MAX CCS\* \$7.00

\*Childcare subsidy (CCS) may apply. Please refer to Services Australia Childcare Subsidy for eligibility and entitlement.

Please note that programs may be subject to change.  
Visit our website for the most up-to-date information.



Scan for further  
information and  
to secure a spot in  
one of our holiday  
programs today!

OSHclub



**Bell**

78A Oakover Road, Preston 3072

Monday 8 January 2024 to Thursday 25 January 2024

Ph: 0413 123 119

7AM  
TIL  
6:30PMPlease ensure all food complies with allergy guidelines.  
Contact your service for detailed information.**MON  
22  
JAN****COMIC BOOK HEROES  
INCURSION: SELF-GUIDED:  
NANO BUILDERS MARVEL**

Dive into the Marvel universe with Self-Guided: Nano Builders Marvel, providing endless building possibilities.



BASE FEE	\$70
EXC/INC FEE	\$15
DAILY TOTAL	\$85
<b>AFTER MAX CCS*</b>	<b>\$8.50</b>

**TUE  
23  
JAN****SPORTS DAY**

Get Set For An Action-Packed Sports Day! Activities May Include Testing Your Knowledge In Name That Athlete, Refueling With Special Energy Smoothies, Racing Your Heart Out In Sports Relays, And Gearing Up For The Ultimate Showdown In Children Vs Educators Dodgeball. Ready, Set, Play!



BASE FEE	\$70
DAILY TOTAL	\$70
<b>AFTER MAX CCS*</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>

**WED  
24  
JAN****DISCO FEVER**

Get ready to groove! Activities may include unleashing your inner dancing star at the Disco Extravaganza, strutting you stuff in Funky Disco Fashion Relays, delighting in delicious Microphone Cupcakes, and painting the beat with Canvas Choreography.



BASE FEE	\$70
EXC/INC FEE	\$15
DAILY TOTAL	\$85
<b>AFTER MAX CCS*</b>	<b>\$8.50</b>

**THU  
25  
JAN****TENNIS FEVER**

Catch The Tennis Fever This Summer! Swing Into Action With Activities Such As Superhero Tennis, Challenging Your Agility With Tennis Ball Balance, And Leaving Your Mark With Tennis Ball Prints. Game, Set, Match For A Smashing Good Time.



BASE FEE	\$70
DAILY TOTAL	\$70
<b>AFTER MAX CCS*</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>

\*Childcare subsidy (CCS) may apply. Please refer to Services Australia Childcare Subsidy for eligibility and entitlement.

Please note that programs may be subject to change. Visit our website for the most up-to-date information.



Scan for further information and to secure a spot in one of our holiday programs today!

**OSHClub**