

BELLBRIDGE NEWS



Bellbridge Primary School
Individual Paths, United Journey

Bellbridge Primary School

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 16th October - Prep – 6 Assembly
Mon 19th – Fri 23rd Oct - Book Week
Monday 19th October - School Council (online)
Thursday 22nd October - Footy Day
Thursday 22nd October - Book Club Due All orders online
Friday 23rd October - Public Holiday

Friday 30th October - Prep – 2 Assembly
Monday 2nd November - Student Free Day
Tuesday 3rd November - Melbourne Cup Day
Friday 6th November - Prep – 2 Assembly
Friday 6th November - Welcome to Hoppers Day

TERM 4 PRIORITIES:

1. **Wellbeing and Equity** – The wellbeing, and particularly the mental health of every student and member of staff is the highest priority.
2. **Learning and Excellence** – We acknowledge that students have had different experiences during remote learning and our focus will be on working with all students at their point of need, both to support those who may have not progressed in their learning to catch up, and for those who have progressed, to continue to extend and stretch their learning. English, Maths and Health & Wellbeing will form the major focus of learning in Term 4.
3. **Transitions** – A key focus will be to make every effort to support students as they transition back to onsite learning at school from remote learning at home, with the aim of re-orienting and familiarising students with the relationships and routines that form a key part of life in school. We will make every effort to ensure that end-of-year and beginning-of-year transition experiences occur as successfully as possible to support students, staff and parents as we prepare for school life next year.

BELLBRIDGE FAMILIES ARE FANTASTIC!

We are so proud and impressed with the way in which our students have returned to learning at school. Over the past six months, families have done an amazing job of attempting to balance remote learning with home life and work commitments, in some extremely challenging circumstances.

Students have returned to school with energy and excitement, prepared to recommence their learning while renewing relationships with their friends and teachers. We are sure parents and carers are also glad that we are all back at school and they no longer have to be their child's 'teacher' – we understand how hard it is to have to fulfil both roles.

When wandering around the school and checking in on classes and play areas, it was great to see everyone so relaxed and happy, and returning to our regular, calm, connected and orderly school life. Let's hope our situation continues to improve throughout Term 4.

WHERE TO FROM HERE.....

We understand that parents still have many questions e.g. graduation, transition, school photos, grades 2021, end of year excursions, end of year parties etc. We continue to receive some guidance on these events from DET, and need to wait for weekly updates and documentation before making public announcements and plans. Be assured we are working really hard to give all our students as many enjoyable and memorable experiences as possible based on the current set of restrictions. As soon as we can answer these questions with some certainty, we will.

For the remainder of this term, we are committed to providing targeted teaching and learning opportunities with the aim of attempting to catch up and close gaps in learning as much as possible. Realistically, we understand that this may not be achieved in two months, and we plan to maintain this approach in the new school year in 2021.

WE are SUNSMART in TERM 4

All students need to wear hats when they play outside in Term 4 (this includes P.E. classes).

Navy hats (bucket or broad brimmed) are part of our school uniform.

Students who do not have a hat will be directed to be undercover (in the shade) in the courtyard.

Hats are able to be purchased at:

NOONE Imagewear

54 Old Geelong Rd, Hoppers Crossing VIC 3029

Phone: [9749 0543](tel:97490543) (re: [click & collect orders](#))



TERM 4 HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

As part of our school's Covid-Safe procedures, we will not be asking students to complete and submit homework tasks this term. We encourage parents to continue to read with their children using books and reading material in the home and/or online subscriptions for reading:

READING EGGS: <https://readingeggspress.com.au/>

SUNSHINE ONLINE: <https://www.sunshineonline.com.au/>

There are also a range of other learning materials accessible on our school website:

<https://www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au/learning-from-home.html>

FOOTY DAY

We will be celebrating Footy Day on Thursday, 22/10/20 with students encouraged to wear 'team colours' (football, soccer, rugby,...) and team anthems being played on the PA system during bell times.

The following day, Friday, 23rd October, is a public holiday in recognition of 'Thank You Day'.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - 'THANK YOU DAY' – Friday, October 23rd

Victoria's AFL Grand Final Eve public holiday has been renamed to 'Thank You Day' to show the states 'THANKS' to those who have made sacrifices to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

This follows the AFL's announcement that the Grand Final will take place in Brisbane, at the Gabba, on Saturday, October 24th. Victorians will get to enjoy the public holiday, which will be on October 23rd.

'Thank You Day' is to honour and acknowledge Victorians who have made so many sacrifices as part of the community effort to contain the spread of coronavirus.

BOOK WEEK



This year, we are celebrating Book Week in Week 3 of this term as it wasn't achievable in Term 3. Because we are having a dress up day for Footy Day, we will not be dressing up or having a parade for Book Week, but all classes will be focussing on one or more of the books nominated for awards by the Australian Book Council, as part of our literacy program.

PARENT SURVEY

The Department of Education & Training (DET) is providing parents with the opportunity to complete the annual Parent Opinion Survey. The 2020 Parent Opinion Survey will be open for parents to complete from **October 12 to November 13**. Information has been sent out to families via Compass.

Please note: this is a different parent survey to those undertaken by our school in Term 2 and Term 3.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS FOR 2021

All enrolments for 2021 are being managed using an online process that is accessible via our school web page (<https://www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au/enrolments.html>). A virtual tour of the school is available (PowerPoint Presentation), as tours will not be conducted at school until we feel it is a safe and appropriate option for our students, staff and prospective visitors.

Enrolments will be managed by our Enrolment Officer. Prompt enrolments assist with our planning for staffing and classes, as well as our Transition Program (typically held mid-late Term 4).

We need Prep enrolments for 2021 to be completed as soon as possible, so we can plan the necessary transition experiences and processes to support students and their families.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Just because school has resumed for many of our students, it doesn't mean that the challenges faced by many families in our community have magically disappeared. If you or someone you know may be in need of some additional assistance or support, the following resources for parents and children may be helpful.

- **PARENTLINE: 13 22 89** 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.
- **LIFELINE: 13 11 14** Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24 hour crisis support.
- **KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 55 1800** Kids Helpline is a free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.

Take care,

Debbie Clancy

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Bellbridge Primary School has been accepted into The Resilience Project's Partnership Program for schools in 2021. This will involve a whole school approach to teaching the concepts of gratitude, empathy, mindfulness and emotional literacy.

A recent study has been conducted by the University of Melbourne, which showed that students benefited from this program in the following ways:

- Improved confidence and self-esteem, especially in relation to their peer relationships
- Improved wellbeing and ability to express emotions
- Improved knowledge and communication of emotions
- Improved relationships both at school and at home
- More supportive classroom environments

In Term 1, 2021, parents will be invited to attend a webinar to find out more about this program. You can also access more information via the following link: <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/>

Our school will have staff, student and parent presentations delivered by the founder of The Resilience Project, Hugh Van Cuylenburg. Hugh is an experienced educator and best-selling author. More information about Hugh can be accessed via the following link: <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/about/>

We are very excited about the journey ahead and look forward to supporting the wellbeing of our whole school community through the support of this valuable program.

