



# Bolinda Primary School



2021

## Foundation Information Pack



# School Information

Principal

Jayden Andrea

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Business Manager

Katie Duoba

Foundation Teacher

Anna Rapetti

2-3 Teacher

Pam Thrift

4-6 Teacher

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ES Staff

Deb Rosewall

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Tricia Owens

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*Bolinda VIC 3432*

*(03) 5428 5317*



# Welcome to Bolinda Primary School

The first year of schooling is the most important year for your child for obvious reasons. Students will begin learning to read and write and also learn to engage with this new thing called 'school.'

At Bolinda Primary School, we place an emphasis on the partnership between students, parents and school to ensure that we make every child's transition to school the positive experience that it should be.

In the first 5 weeks of school, we will offer a 'readiness for school program' aimed at assisting students to develop the skills and confidence they will use to engage with their schooling as life long learners.

Bolinda PS is very highly regarded as being a place which offers students a safe, caring and nurturing learning environment with a positive and supportive school culture. Our dedicated teachers and support staff genuinely care about your child's social and emotional wellbeing and will work closely with you to cater for your child's individual educational and emotional needs.

## Enrolment procedures

Once you have visited Bolinda Primary School or participated in a virtual school tour, we guarantee your child's enrolment at the school, upon receipt of the enrolment form. A copy of your child's birth certificate and immunisation status is also required to finalise enrolment procedures at the school.

Bolinda Primary School was established in 1870. The school has 3 classrooms, a well resourced library, art room, STEAM shed, chicken coup, large veggie garden, and a staff administration area.

We have a foyer, two basketball/netball courts, extensive grassed areas, adventure playground with raised cubby house, sand pit and other small breakout areas for imaginative play.

Before and after school care is provided on site by Schools Out!

Jayden Andrea

Principal



# About the School

We offer a rigorous, guaranteed curriculum at Bolinda Primary School following the Victorian Curriculum. Our staff deliver consistent high quality lessons based on developing base level skills in all areas of the curriculum.

Our school has a reading, writing and maths session (1 hour each) every day. Our junior literacy program is based around a synthetic phonics approach which utilises the Thrass program as well as drawing on the Little Learners phonics systems. This foundation building strategy assists students throughout their schooling by ensuring that they are able to solidify the basics at a young age.

We offer Phys-Ed, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, LOTE, Digital Technology with a 1:2 Netbook ratio, PMI Music program, within school hours, a swimming program, Year 3-6 Camp and a high quality Kitchen Garden Program.



## Staff

The school has at least one teacher's aide in each classroom at all times to assist students to achieve their individual learning goals .

## Classes

Class groupings will be finalised prior to the completion of the current school year with an emphasis on keeping numbers extremely low in the Foundation classroom.

## Outside Play

Children are supervised in the yard before school from 8:45am and should not arrive before this time. After school, the yard is supervised until 3:45pm.

## School Times

Start	Session 1	Recess	Session 2	Lunch	Session 3	Dismissal
9am	9-11	11-11:30	11:30-1:30	1::30-2:30	2:30-3:30	3:30

## Schools Out!

Our before and after school care program is run on site and is available 5 days a week from 6:30am to 6:30pm.

## **Absences**

If your child is absent you must advise the school on the morning of the absence by calling (03) 5428 5317 or you may enter the absence via our school management system (UeducateUs).

Due to Department of Education (DET) regulations and to ensure your child/ren's safety, if your child is absent and we haven't heard from you, we will SMS you asking you to confirm you are aware that your child is not in school. If we do not hear from you, the absence will be marked as unexplained. Please be mindful, should your child/ren have regular unexplained absences, this will be followed up at a higher level.

## **Late Arrivals and Early Departures**

The safety of all our students is a priority and this includes us accounting for every child, every minute of the day. Therefore, should your child arrive after 9am or need to leave before 3:30pm, you must sign them in/out at the office.

## **Uniforms**

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory during school hours and when students are engaged in school activities out of school hours. Uniforms may be ordered directly from Belega uniforms. Further information is available from the office.

## **Fees**

Every school has annual fees for school supplies. These supplies include your child's book pack and access to technology. The estimated annual cost is \$140.

We believe that no child should miss out. Therefore, we have a range of payment options to make it easier for families to pay for fees and excursions. Fees must be paid in full by the start of Term 1 or by the end of Term 3 next year if on a payment plan.

(We ask that every family pay via BPay– contact the office if you have any questions or concerns).

### **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)**

CSEF was introduced in 2015 to assist families with a current healthcare card with payments for school camps and excursions. \$125 per year is provided to the school for this purpose and remaining money is rolled over each year throughout your child's schooling. Please note that this must be applied for by completing a form at the school office at the beginning of 2021.



## Enrolments

Enrolments for Foundation are accepted throughout the year. There is no cut-off for enrolments, however, to enable us to plan and get an idea of enrolment numbers, we do ask that you enrol your child sooner rather than later.

We also ask that should you enrol your child and then change your mind, please let us know ASAP so we can withdraw your child's application.

## Enrolment forms

2021 enrolment forms are available from our website and from the school office. This form is quite detailed and it is important that you complete all sections. If you would like assistance filling out the enrolment form, please contact the office.

Our funding from the department is determined by using two measures:

- Parent occupation
- Parent level of education

If you need help understanding what this means for you, please don't hesitate to ask.

We understand that families have different living arrangements and we have systems in place to accommodate this on your child's account. This may include emergency contacts at different addresses, correspondence being sent to additional adults and bill splitting.

To complete your enrolment, you must supply your child's birth certificate and immunisation certificate with the enrolment form.

## Questions

Please call 5428 5317 or email [Jayden.Andrea@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jayden.Andrea@education.vic.gov.au) if you have any questions about enrolling your child. We are always happy to help.



# **Bolinda Primary School statement of philosophy and values**

*Nurturing each student's academic, social and emotional needs.*

We aim to help students develop:

- the skills to communicate effectively using verbal, written or interpersonal skills
- a common understanding of the school values of respect, learning, responsibility and resilience
- the skills and knowledge to interpret information in the world around them
- the use of imagination and creative self-expression
- the ability to explore and learn through play based experiences
- a set of personal and social values
- decision making, analysis and problem solving skills
- their capacity to become life-long learners
- an understanding of themselves and their world
- the ability to think reflectively, critically and creatively
- the interpersonal skills to care for, get along with and respect others
- the ability to use their voice and have an impact on their community.

To achieve this, we will give priority to:

the delivery of high quality literacy and numeracy programs based on the high impact teaching strategies. We will achieve this by timetabling a daily literacy and numeracy block, providing up to date resources, developing skills in staff to gather, analyse and use relevant data to guide teaching, ensuring regular PD and support for teachers and support staff

delivering high quality, interesting inquiry subjects which immerse and engage students in their learning. These allow students to expand their general knowledge and develop the skills to enable them to become productive and caring members of society.

developing a social emotional learning program where values are discussed, analysed, modelled and recognised to support students to become respectful, inclusive learners. We value the individual differences of each student and will strive to provide for them through differentiating the curriculum and explicitly providing instructions for their social and emotional needs.

providing opportunities for play based learning, placing an emphasis on student voice. Students will have the freedom to explore their learning based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility model.

building home-school partnerships to develop meaningful and relevant goals for individual students. Our school will function as a team, with parents and staff, to ensure that each student works toward his/her potential as a life-long learner. We will encourage students to have a positive approach to life, and live by the school's values of respect, resilience, responsibility and learning.

Bolinda Primary School aims to provide a supportive, stimulating and challenging learning environment. Children are encouraged as individuals to become self-motivated and responsible students able to achieve their best so they can make positive contributions to the community.

# Bolinda Primary School Teaching and Learning

## English

We have a highly effective synthetic phonics program in the junior years. This is delivered to other students as required across the year levels.

Students across the school develop their ability to read and write through daily reading and writing lessons which immerse the students in the world of language and literature. Students set individual reading and writing goals and learn from their individual point of need. Students have access to a teacher aide in each classroom who is assigned to work with an individual, small groups or the whole class.

Students participate in activities such as reader's theatre, independent reading, library, small group debates, modelled reading/writing and guided reading (amongst other initiatives) to support literacy development.

To support students, we appreciate if families read with their children at home as much as possible before beginning their foundation year to help students make the transition to school more seamless.

## Maths

Students develop their basic maths skills from a young age. Students engage in maths games, rich tasks and explicit teaching of maths skills to develop their confidence and capacity to solve maths problems. Teachers use hands on materials to solidify and develop concepts and the school is well equipped to provide students with materials to model maths concepts.

Teachers also run maths withdrawal groups, which target student learning at their point of need. Students may find themselves working with another teacher during these times based on the skills they demonstrate during assessment tasks. These groups take place twice weekly.

We ask that you play simple games that involve maths at home between now and starting school in 2021. This might include playing board games that involve rolling a dice, card games that require the reading of numbers and counting objects such as cars, toys or even fun maths websites.

We want our students to get the basics right.

## Inquiry

Research shows that students who develop a deep knowledge base about the world have distinct advantage when attempting to read texts later on in their schooling. At Bolinda PS, students will develop their general knowledge and Inquiry skills through our Inquiry program. This allows students the opportunity to learn from their teacher but also from books and online resources in order to deepen their understanding of the world. This knowledge base is essential for building strong readers and writers.

*Current Inquiries:*

P-1 Chemical Science

Wherever possible, talk to your students about the world around us. Teach them about history, science, politics or anything else you are engaged in. Slow down and take the time to foster questioning and curiosity in your little learners. Those discussions and conversations assist students to develop deep comprehension as they move through their schooling.

# Specialist Subjects

## STEAM

Design challenges form the basis of every student's love of science. Students need to use a variety of materials and follow the design process in order to learn about the world around them. Students will utilise their creative side as they strive to create designs which meet a brief.

During our STEAM classes in term 3, students will get creative, artistic and reflective with their designs and solve challenging, engaging design briefs using a variety of materials.

We want to foster an excitement and love for design and creativity in our students and we have placed a big emphasis on this program moving forward.

## French

French will be offered as an explicitly taught, stand-alone subject at Bolinda Primary School. Students will begin expanding their knowledge of French nouns, verbs and songs as well as developing their knowledge of the French alphabet.

Students who are eligible to participate will join in a weekly French "conversations" class where they will take a deeper dive into the language.

## Art

As well as stand-alone Art lessons, some creative, artistic elements will be incorporated into our STEM program (creating a STEAM program). Students will develop their artistic skills through the use of various materials and design challenges in term 3.

## Kitchen Garden

This program will be offered to all year levels on a 3 week rotating basis. Students will analyse recipes and become aware of healthy ingredients before harvesting from our beautiful garden (obviously we will need to purchase many of the ingredients).

Students will then take an active role in chopping, slicing, measuring, stirring, timing and then tasting the food that they make in small groups. Students will then evaluate the food they have eaten for taste, texture and smell.

Recipes will be sent out to families who have special dietary requirements or allergies. If you have not updated your child's medical information with the school, please do so as soon as possible so we can plan effectively for future cooks.

**Physical Education** Students will continue to develop their fundamental gross motor skills through participation in weekly small games and sports and explicit teaching to learn the skills of Physical Education and Health.

## Student Excellence Program

Our student excellence program will continue to run with our visiting tutor, Andrew. Selected students will spend time extending their learning through a challenging and personalised program designed to stimulate independent Inquiry and challenge the learner.

Andrew will be visiting 2-3 times per week to support various groups.

# Transition Calendar

## **September 2020**

Enrolment tours commenced.

## **October 2020**

Welcome letters go home  
Year 4/5 students assigned buddies

## **November 2020**

“Readiness for School program” begins  
Transition afternoons conducted by Anna and Jayden  
Distribution of parent pack.

## **December 2020**

Whole school transition day  
Welcome cards presented to buddies  
Welcome talk

## **January 2021**

Preps begin school in late January.

Book interviews online

## **February 2021**

Prep assessments

Parent feedback

Start full days

Parent helper training

## **March 2021**

Open night

Buddies once a week

## **April**

Term 1 Holidays and the start of Term 2

## The Buddy System

The Buddy system is set up with our Year 5 students to ensure a stimulating and welcoming experience for our new Foundation students. It encourages the older children to take on responsibility, while the younger children know that they have a buddy they can turn to for support.

Each Year 5 buddy will write to their new Foundation buddy at the end of 2020. In the first few weeks of Foundation, the now-Year 6 buddy supports their Foundation buddy both in school and at recess breaks. During Term 1 and 2 the students will meet regularly with their buddies for joint activities based around team building and enjoyment.

## School BBQ

A school BBQ for new parents will be held on our open night in Term 1. This will give all members of the community to welcome our new students and families into the Bolinda Family.

At Bolinda, we really are like a big family and those partnerships are evident on evenings such as the new families BBQ.



## Be Prepared For Foundation at Bolinda Primary School

Its important children start Foundation with a "Can-Do "attitude.

Parents can help their child prepare for Foundation by teaching them independence, responsibility and self-control.

### \*Teach your child to:

#### **LEAVE**

you for a few hours without being upset;

#### **KNOW**

their name and address;

#### **TAKE**

off and put on their shoes and socks;

#### **TAKE**

off and put on a jumper or windcheater;

#### **WRITE**

their name.

### \*Encourage them to:

#### **RUN**

hop, jump, skip, walk, catch a ball  
and use the toilet on their own;

#### **COLOUR**

in with chalk, crayons, and oil pastels;

#### **DRAW**

and scribble on large sheets of paper;

#### **CUT**

out and paste pictures on paper.

### \*Teach them independence, responsibility and self-control through:

#### **DOING**

small jobs at home for which they are praised;

#### **NOT**

giving them everything they want;

#### **NOT GIVING IN**

to tantrums or letting them have their own way;

#### **GETTING**

them to wait while you finish  
what you are doing.

### \*Prepare them for mathematics by letting them:

#### **HELP**

you with the shopping, handle money  
and watch you pay for the goods;

#### **HELP**

you with the cooking and  
measuring ingredients;

#### **USE**

maths in everyday activities,  
such as telling the time, estimating distances,  
and counting a building's windows.

### \*Prepare them for reading and writing by:

#### **SHOWING**

you value reading and writing;

#### **TAKING**

them to the library;

#### **SOMETIMES**

running your finger under the text;

#### **READING**

labels on packets at shops and road signs;

#### **WRITING**

messages for children to read, such as:  
"Please feed the cat".