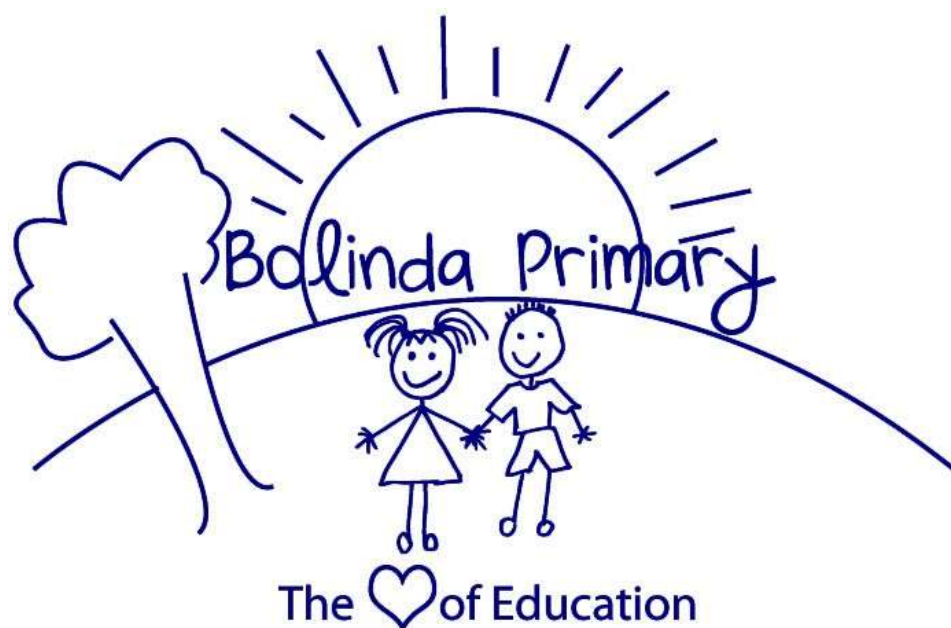


BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING-RESILIENCE-RESPECT-RESPONSIBILITY



PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Welcome to Bolinda Primary School

A Comprehensive Approach to Education and Student Wellbeing

Bolinda Primary School is a gem in the world of primary education. This school offers a unique and enriching learning experience to its students, with a range of innovative programs and specialist subjects that set it apart from other schools.

One of the standout features of Bolinda Primary School is its small class sizes. With a focus on personalised learning, students receive individualised attention and support from their teachers. This approach allows students to progress at their own pace and receive targeted feedback on their academic performance.

Bolinda Primary School also places a strong emphasis on social and emotional well-being. The school has dedicated programs and resources in place to support students' social and emotional development, including mindfulness practice, restorative justice, and peer support programs. By prioritising students' mental health and well-being, Bolinda Primary School creates a safe and inclusive learning environment that supports the whole child.

We also offer a kitchen garden program, where students learn about healthy eating and sustainable living. This hands-on experience provides an opportunity for students to grow and harvest their own fruits and vegetables, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the environment and healthy eating habits.

In addition to these initiatives, Bolinda Primary School offers a range of specialist subjects, including Physical Education, Visual Arts, STEM, and Auslan. These programs provide students with the opportunity to develop a diverse range of skills and interests, and to explore new and exciting topics. The school's commitment to offering a broad and varied curriculum helps to ensure that all students have the opportunity to discover and pursue their passions.

But perhaps most important of all, are the dedicated teachers at Bolinda Primary School. The school has a team of highly qualified and passionate educators who are committed to helping students succeed. They work tirelessly to create engaging and challenging learning experiences and to provide the support that students need to thrive.

Bolinda Primary School is a school that nurtures the whole child, with a range of innovative programs and resources that support students' academic, social, emotional, and physical development. If you're looking for a school that prioritises your child's well-being and offers a well-rounded and enriching education, Bolinda Primary School is the place for you.

Jordan Chamera
Principal

About Bolinda Primary 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 as well as interpersonal and social-emotional learning.

Our school has a reading, writing and math session (1 hour each) every day. Our junior literacy program is based around a synthetic phonics approach which uses the Thrass program as well as drawing on the Little Learners phonics sequence. These critical building blocks assist students throughout their schooling by ensuring that they can solidify the basics at a young age.

We offer STEM, Visual Art, Auslan, Interschool Sports, Digital Technology with a 1:2 Netbook ratio, social-emotional learning through the Kimochi Program, a swimming program, Year 3-6 Camp, Chess club, quiet play areas, a sensory garden, indoor and undercover play at lunchtimes and a Kitchen Garden Program.

Classes

Class groupings will be finalised before the completion of the current school year with priority placed on keeping numbers extremely low in the Foundation classroom.

School Times

Start 9am (school opens at 8:45am)

Learning Time (9am – 10.50am)

Eating Time in Classroom (10.50am – 11.00am)

Recess Play (11.00am – 11.30am)

Learning Time (11.30am – 1.30pm)

Eating time in Classroom (1.30pm – 1.40pm)

Lunch Play (1.40pm – 2.30pm)

Learning Time (2.30pm – 3.30pm)

Dismissal (3.30pm)

Bolinda Primary School Statement of Philosophy & Values

For our staff to support our students to develop self-belief and worth, with knowledge and skills to live in the big wide world in a respectful manner.

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 lifelong 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 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, and ensuring regular PD and support for teachers and support staff.
- delivering high quality, interesting inquiry subjects that 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 lifelong 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.

Curriculum Information

Each Child is Different

It is important for you to be aware that each child is different. Some children will be just starting to manage writing implements while others will be writing their names. Some will want you to read to them while others will be beginning to read.

You will be curious to know what is going on at school and may question your child about the activities of the day. Don't be concerned if your child is not keen to talk at length about school.

Above all remember that both families and Teachers need to work together to ensure that your child has a chance to develop to their optimum level.

The teacher will become an important influence on your child's life. The first year of school is an especially important one. It is a time when the foundations for the understanding of language, reading and numeracy are laid down. If you are concerned about any matter or have any questions, you are always welcome to discuss these with a staff member of the school.

It is advisable to initially discuss the concern with your child's teacher – although on occasions you may prefer to discuss the matter with the principal.

Please phone to make an appointment, at a mutually suitable time, outside of teaching times to minimise disruption to lessons.

Literacy

We run a highly effective synthetic phonics program in our 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 points of need.

Teachers run targeted small teaching groups that allow students to work at their level and facilitate targeted teaching according to their point of need.

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 would appreciate it if families worked with their children at home as much as possible before beginning their foundation year to help students make the transition to school more seamless. When you submit your enrolment forms, we will be in touch with further information about how you're able to support your child before they start school.

Numeracy

Students develop their basic math skills from an early age. At Bolinda Primary School, students engage in math games, rich tasks and explicit teaching of math skills to develop their confidence and capacity to solve math problems. Teachers use hands-on materials to solidify and develop concepts and the school is well equipped to provide students with materials to model math concepts.

Students participate in math lessons for at least 5 hours a week, this is increased in the senior years. Teachers teach a model that allows students to be continually exposed to number concepts throughout the entire year and not just in isolation. We ask that you play simple games that involve math at home between now and starting school in 2024. This might include playing board games that involve rolling dice, card games that require the reading of numbers and counting objects such as cars, toys or even fun math websites. We want our students to get the basics right.

Specialist Subjects

STEM

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 to learn about the world around them. Students will utilise their creative side as they strive to create designs that meet a brief. During our STEM classes, students 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.

Auslan

Auslan is offered as an explicitly taught, stand-alone subject at Bolinda Primary School. Students will begin expanding their knowledge of Auslan nouns, verbs and songs as well as developing their knowledge of the Auslan alphabet. Students expand their knowledge of Auslan across the curriculum with Auslan being fostered in all curriculum subjects as well as assembly and whole school events to build awareness and embed skills. We are an Auslan school.

Visual Art

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

Kitchen Garden

This program is offered to all year levels on a 3-week rotating basis. Students analyse recipes and become aware of healthy ingredients before harvesting from our beautiful garden. Students then take an active role in chopping, slicing, measuring, stirring, timing and then tasting the food that they make in small groups. Students 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.

Physical Education

Students 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. We have a sports coach come to the school once a week to teach a sport throughout the term.

General Information

Absences

If your child is absent, you must advise the school on the morning of the absence through the app Compass. If you are having trouble, please give us a call at the office on 5428 5317.

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 advise you automatically through Compass. Our school complies with all Department of Education attendance policies.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Please contact the office if you arrive at school late or would like to leave early. This allows us to amend your child's attendance so that we can ensure that students are safe for every minute that they are in our care.

Uniforms

A uniform is compulsory at Bolinda Primary School. School uniforms are available through Beleza Uniforms in Gisborne. Families can visit the store in Gisborne and every purchase you make sends a little bit of money into our school to support student programs.

Fees

Every school has annual fees for school supplies. These supplies include your child's book pack, and access to technology and are extremely cheap compared to like schools. Please see our parent payment information available from the office or the school website.

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. Families can ask for a payment plan if this is more suitable (We ask that every family pay via BPay– contact the office if you have any questions or concerns, we are here to help).

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 the 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 the school year.

Canteen

The canteen is currently facilitated through a local business, "Waymaker Canteen." Lunch orders are available for Thursday but need to be pre-ordered by Tuesday 12pm via:

<http://waymakercanteenbolinda.square.site/>

Communication with Bolinda Primary School

Digital Newsletter

Our school Newsletter is completely digital and is one of the main forms of communication between the school and home. It goes out every fortnight with information from the principal, recipients of that week's assembly awards, upcoming events, important dates and more. The newsletter is distributed via Compass. Parents are asked to read it every fortnight to stay up to date with what is happening at school. The Newsletter can also be viewed on the school website.

Compass

Permission to access this online communication tool is obtained as part of your child's enrolment paperwork. A unique login and password for your family is then issued. Through Compass you can:

- Access your child's semester reports.
- Notify the school of student absences.
- View the newsletter.
- Receive alerts and reminders about events/excursions.
- Keep up to date with upcoming events.

School Website

We recommend that you check out our website. It holds lots of important information; policies, newsletters, enrolment information, Canteen Menu, OSHC information and important dates to list a few.

Assembly

Every second Friday at 3pm outside or in a classroom we have a school assembly.

Here we celebrate;

- student achievements or special visitors,
- issue certificates to those students who have earned their class award, Specialist Award, Principal Award or Values Award.

Kimochi Emotional Program

In today's fast-paced world, emotions run high and can be difficult to navigate. In the classroom, students are often taught to suppress their emotions, leading to negative consequences such as stress, anxiety, and poor academic performance. However, the Kimochi Emotional Program offers a solution to these issues. This program is a valuable tool for the development of emotional intelligence and is widely used in classrooms across the country.

The Kimochi Emotional Program is based on the concept of emotional intelligence, which involves recognising and managing one's own emotions and the emotions of others. This program uses a series of plush characters to teach children about emotions and how to manage them effectively. Each character represents a different emotion, such as happy, sad, angry, or worried. The characters come with a set of activities and stories that help children understand and manage their emotions in a healthy way.

One of the main benefits of the Kimochi Emotional Program is its ability to help children develop emotional literacy. Emotional literacy involves the ability to identify and express one's own emotions as well as understand the emotions of others. This skill is crucial for effective communication and healthy relationships. By using the Kimochi plush characters, children learn to identify and express their own emotions and recognise the emotions of others. This helps them build empathy and social awareness, leading to positive interactions with their peers.

Another benefit of the Kimochi Emotional Program is its ability to help children regulate their emotions. The program offers a range of strategies for managing emotions, such as deep breathing, taking a break, or talking to a trusted adult. By learning these strategies, children can better cope with difficult emotions and avoid negative behaviours such as tantrums, aggression, or withdrawal.

In conclusion, the Kimochi Emotional Program is a valuable tool for the development of emotional intelligence in children. By using plush characters to teach children about emotions and strategies for managing them effectively, the program helps children develop emotional literacy and regulation skills. This, in turn, leads to improved behaviour, academic performance, and healthy relationships with peers. The Kimochi Emotional Program is a valuable resource for educators and parents seeking to promote emotional well-being in children.

Kimochis
social and emotional learning



How You Can Become Involved at Bolinda Primary School

Bolinda Primary School encourages parental involvement in many aspects of school life. Children respond positively to seeing their parents and family participating in school excursions, sporting events or involved with classroom activities.

It is a requirement that all parents who assist in schools have a current Voluntary Working with Children's Check. This is free to obtain, and application forms are available online.

We actively encourage your involvement in our school through:

Classroom Assistance

During the first year of school, Prep teachers see this as an ideal time for parents to be involved in the classroom.

Assisting with On-Site Events

Throughout the year we often run events that rely heavily on parental assistance. The range of events that often need parent volunteers include:

- Special student lunch days - may be BBQ or assisting with food preparation or distribution
- Sporting events such as Cross Country, Sports Day, Interschool Sports
- Working Bees
- Kitchen Garden Program
- Mother's Day or Father's Day
- Local excursions

School Council

Our School Council meets once a month at school in the evening and has 5 parent positions. Being on council is a wonderful way to see what goes on behind the scenes and become involved in the decision making for the school.

Every year positions on the School Council become available and are advertised in the school Newsletter in February.

Enrolment Procedures

Enrolments

Enrolments for Foundation are accepted from Term 2. 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

Enrolment forms are available from our website and from the school office. If you would like assistance filling out the enrolment form, please contact the office.

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

Parent occupation

Parent level of education

Number of enrolments

If you need help completing the form accurately, please let us know.

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

If you have any questions about your own personal circumstances, please do not hesitate to ask. We are exceptionally good at catering to individual needs.

Once you have visited Bolinda Primary School or participated in a school tour, we confirm 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.

Please call 5428 5317 or email Jordan.Chamerski@education.vic.gov.au if you have any questions about enrolling your child. We are always happy to help.