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Banyule Primary School

January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Banyule Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the school's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

In the past, support from our community has allowed us to purchase things such as additional IT support, ongoing service of equipment, additional materials, support and programs that help us cater for the needs of every student, facilities projects and maintenance, library books etc... This all helps to ensure our school can continue to provide the high quality education and development opportunities for all students.

Banyule Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Payment Plans including regular payment instalments for all extra curricular activities
- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) is available for eligible families.
 - Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. Application forms can be obtained from the Office. Parents who currently receive the CSEF and who remain eligible will automatically have their 2024 application processed by the School.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these service options, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact the Business Manager, Betty Horan on 9459 0732 or email: betty.horan@education.vic.gov.au

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Shanahan
Principal

Michael Gibbs
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>Year 1 classroom consumables, materials & equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise books, ruled exercise books, project books (dotted thirds) writing book, scrap books, eraser, pencil sharpener, glue sticks, red lead pencils, project books, tri barrel markers, document wallets, premium coloured paper, grey lead pencils, book boxes, numeracy blocks, cover paper, highlighters, textas, scissors, crayons Sports – equipment Art supplies – glitter, glue, clay, craft materials, coloured paper, paint acrylic and watercolour, coloured pencils <p>(these are initial requirements that will be replenished during the year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT – This component contributes to the costs of technology in the school – purchase and maintenance of hardware, digital learning devices, software and the provision of devices from the shared classroom sets <p>Online Subscriptions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seesaw (\$10) Reading Eggs (\$15) PM Online readers (\$10) Essential Assessment (\$10) <p>Printing and photocopying of learning resources for students' use</p>	<p>\$130.00</p> <p>\$120.00</p> <p>\$ 45.00</p> <p>\$ 25.00</p>
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
First aid equipment and supplies	\$30.00
Student and parent communication (Compass)	\$15.00
School grounds maintenance and improvements. This component is directed to the ongoing maintenance such as upkeep of gardens and grounds as well as small projects to improve the learning environment for students.	\$55.00
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$100.00
Total (including all of the above)	\$ 520.00

If Parents choose to purchase materials themselves, this should be done in consultation with the School, as items must meet the specifications and policies of the school. The school receives a very competitive price as we buy in bulk and distribute, as required, throughout the year. We have found that this method is beneficial to your child. There may also be certain items that due to their nature may only be provided by the school. However, should you choose to purchase your own items, please see the link below to enable you to purchase from our suppliers directly: www.winc.com.au and they will supply you with a list of requirements for your child's year level. Please note, if you choose this option you may be required to replenish supplies throughout the year as required.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Banyule Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
All grade 1 incursions/excursions/activities to be scheduled in 2024. <i>(In 2023, this amount was in the vicinity of \$100 per child)</i> You will be advised of the potential cost as they are planned throughout the year.	TBA

Financial Support for Families

Banyule Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Individual payment plans
- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund for holders of current Health Care Cards
- State Schools Relief Fund
- Second hand uniform supplies

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Betty Horan Ph: 03 9459 0732 | Email: betty.horan@education.vic.gov.au

Totals

Category	Suggested Amount:	Or nominated amount:
Curriculum Contributions	\$320.00	
Other Contributions	\$200.00	
Total payable to School	\$520.00	

Payment methods: We accept payment via Eftpos, Direct Payment through your bank account, Cash/Cheque. Compass is our online communications tool. It is available to the community for all communications as well as payments.

Refunds: All refund requests need to be directed to the Principal and are at the discretion of the school. All refunds are made on a case by case basis. A request for refund does not automatically mean a full refund of monies will be paid. Refunds may be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.