



Park Orchards Primary School

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5 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Park Orchards Primary School, **we believe every child deserves an inspiring education** in a nurturing, well-resourced environment. **Our success** is built on the **strong partnership** between our dedicated staff and our supportive parent community.

POPS continues to **perform well above state and similar schools** in NAPLAN results for literacy and numeracy. Our parent and student surveys show that families value our focus on academic excellence, wellbeing, and community connection.

While government funding provides the essentials, your **voluntary contributions** allow us to go further, enhancing learning and wellbeing for every child. **Every dollar** is reinvested directly into our school.

Your support helps us fund:

- **Modern classrooms and resources** – Upgraded furniture, technology, and learning materials.
- **Enriching programs** – Specialist areas such as STEM, Science, and Digital Technologies.
- **A nurturing environment** – Ongoing care for our buildings and beautiful grounds.
- **Inspiring initiatives** – Projects like the Indigenous Sensory Garden, celebrating culture and connection to Country.

Thanks to parent contributions in 2025, we achieved:

- Refreshed classrooms and corridors (Years 1/2)
- New furniture for comfort and engagement (Years 3/4)
- Expanded literacy, numeracy, and digital resources
- Maintenance of buildings and outdoor spaces
- Refurbishment of the Pettet Centre toilets

In 2026, your contributions will help us:

- Repaint and upgrade Years 3/4 learning spaces
- Continue developing the Indigenous Sensory Garden (yarning circle, digging area, pathways, and native plantings)
- Provide the rich, well-rounded programs our community values

The School Council has approved the Parent Payments for **Year 3 and 4 students** for 2026. For these year levels, the total, covering curriculum contributions, other contributions, and tax-deductible donations, is **\$440 for the full year**. This represents a **reasonable cost** that directly supports your child's educational experience.

Actions for Parents and Carers

1. Parent Financial Contributions – Shared Resources

From **Wednesday 5 November 2025**, parents can log in to **Compass** to make financial contributions to support shared school resources and programs.

2. Educational Items for Students to Own- Individual Resources

Parents can choose to purchase the following items for 2026:

- Essential Book Pack – includes specific exercise books and quality writing materials.
- Pencil Case Pack – includes a new pencil case and essential stationery items for students who would like to start the year fresh.

All stationery orders and payments are made through the [Maxim Parent Portal](#) from **Wednesday 5 November 2025**.

- **Order closing date: Wednesday 17 December 2025**

- Stationery collection:
 - Friday 23 January, 10:00am – 12:00pm
 - Tuesday 27 January, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Collection location: Pettet Centre

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support, which continues to make POPS an exceptional place for every child to learn and grow.

Thank you for partnering with us to create the best possible experience for our students.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payment Policy is available here [Parent Payments Policy](#), an attached one-page overview is also part of this communication.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwyn Garrity

Principal

Sam Kupinic

School Council President

Katie Fisher

School Council Treasurer

Parent Financial Contribution to shared school resources – Compass – From 5/11/2025

Year 3 & Year 4	
Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom shared consumables, materials & equipment • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glue, clay glitter, coloured paper etc • Science – straws, paper plates, chemicals, masking tape, science kits • Literacy -book boxes, class sets, take home books, classroom libraries • Numeracy – blocks, maths’ kits, classroom manipulatives • Geography and History – cardboard, paper, glue, reference charts/ materials etc • Music- upgrading of microphones and audio equipment • Physical Education- upgrading of equipment • General classroom materials-posters, craft items, shared sets	\$145
Online Subscriptions and workbooks (school and home use) • Mathletics (\$17.35) • Reading Eggs/Express (\$19.48) • Soundwaves (\$12.72) • Essential Assessments program (\$20)	\$70
ICT Devices – provision of constantly upgraded devices from the shared classroom laptop and iPad sets, classroom mobile touch panels	\$60
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$10
Curriculum Contributions Total	\$285

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
Cucina – cooking classes – 8 sessions	\$10
Athletics Carnival – hire of equipment, transport, and affiliations	\$15
School buildings & grounds – regular repairs & maintenance	\$30
Other Contributions Total	\$55

Tax Deductible Contributions	Suggested per family
Building Fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$50
Library Fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.	\$50
Tax Deductible Contributions Total	\$100

Please note for tax deductible contributions, a receipt will be issued in both parents’ names. If you would prefer to change that please contact the office to speak with Mrs Daniel.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities - Park Orchards 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 to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis and costs are communicated to parents prior to the activity.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities		Amount
Optional Year 3 School Camp- Candlebark Farm, Healesville – 16 - 18 Sept 2026	Approx. \$350	\$ TBC
Optional Year 4 School Camp - Sovereign Hill, Ballarat – Aug 31- Sept 2 2026	Approx. \$450	\$ TBC
Optional Year 3 & 4 swimming program	Approx. \$100	\$ TBC
Optional Year 3 & 4 excursions and incursions	Approx. \$80	\$ TBC
Optional Hoop Time basketball	Approx. \$25	\$ TBC
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities Total		\$ TBC

Total

Category	Amount
Curriculum Contributions	\$ 285
Other Contributions	\$ 55
Tax Deductible Contributions	\$ 100
Total	\$ 440
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$ TBC

Financial Support for Families- Park Orchards Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Access to a local philanthropic organisation – Pettet Foundation
- Access to State Schools' Relief support for clothing/uniforms

Any parents experiencing hardship who would like a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or who would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements can contact the Business Manager: Mrs Daniel, 9876 1249 or Elissa.Daniel@education.vic.gov.au or the School Principal: Ms Garrity, email: Bronwyn.Garrity@education.vic.gov.au

Refunds - Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred. Please refer to the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

Payment methods - Payment is recommended to be made via [Compass](#). Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities of recurring contributions can be set up with the Business Manager, Mrs Daniel, 9876 1249 or Elissa.Daniel@education.vic.gov.au **Individual use** items are paid via the [Maxim Parent Portal](#).

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.