



"Small School, Big Opportunities"
Kindness, Cooperation, Resilience, Respect

Tarwin Lower Primary School
School Road
Tarwin Lower 3956
Ph. 5663 5263
tarwin.lower.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Dear Families,

This letter is to advise you of Tarwin Lower Primary School's Voluntary Financial Contributions for 2024. We are looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Tarwin Lower Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, 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 is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to organise and coordinate the best possible programs outside of the traditional teaching and learning classroom structure. Your financial contributions assist us with the purchasing of art, music and physical education equipment and different resources, which contribute to our amazing curriculum and enhance the already high-quality teaching of our core areas such as Reading, Writing and Mathematics. We have also upgraded our playground equipment, and your support allows us to continue the upkeep and enhancement of our Kitchen Garden Program.

All these programs running together provide an effectively balanced and rigorous overall education experience for your children.

School Council has agreed that we will not increase in our Curriculum Contributions for 2025, leaving the amount at \$160.00.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached or refer to the full Parent Payment Policy on the Tarwin Lower Primary School website – <https://www.tarwinlowerps.vic.edu.au>

START OF YEAR PROCEDURES

All stationery items will be distributed to the students in the classroom on the first day of school and throughout the year as needed. We will not have book pick up procedures as we have had in the past.

The school will still be open, however, on **Tuesday 28th January 2025 between 9.00am and 4.00pm** if you wish to come in and do the following:

- Make a financial payment for Curriculum Contributions/Other Contributions. See the following pages for more information.
- Fill in Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund Application if you are the holder of a Centrelink card. (Note: this only needs to be done once. If you've already filled the form and received CSEF from our school previously, your application will be automatically rolled over into 2025)
- Notify us regarding any changed circumstances, such as phone numbers, addresses, custody issues etc.
- Collect some uniform pieces from our pre-loved uniform shop. All these uniform items are free of charge.
- Place an order for new uniforms.

Yours sincerely,

Ashton Webster, Principal

Vanessa Fisher, School Council President

Curriculum Contributions

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>Classroom consumables, materials, & equipment (breakdown of cost available on request)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom - pens, pencils, markers, glue sticks, writing, graph and scrap books, folders, display books, scissors, rulers etc • Student reading diaries (Senior students - Diary organiser) • Handwriting book • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, card, wool, material, wood, beading • Science/ Mathematics – numeracy consumables, books, stationary • Literacy – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers • Headphones • Sports – equipment, ribbons, materials • Cooking & garden supplies/activities • Music – instruments, workbooks • AUSLAN – materials • Project paper, cover paper, laminating etc 	\$110.00
<p>Online Subscriptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundwaves • Essential Assessment 	\$25.00
<p>Curriculum Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.A.R.C. membership • Corner Inlet Cluster Sports/School Sport Vic memberships 	\$25.00
Curriculum Consumables	\$160.00

Extra-Curricular Items & Activities

Tarwin 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.

The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Camp - Years 3 & 4	approx \$300.00
Camp - Years 5 & 6	approx \$300.00
Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$TBA

Other Contributions

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

Other Contributions	Amount
Contribution towards school grounds upkeep. Suggested amount per student	\$40.00
<i>Other Contributions</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$ 160.00
Extra-Curricular Items & Activities	\$ TBA
Other Contributions for grounds upgrades (suggested amount)	\$ 40.00
<i>Total Curriculum Consumables and Suggested Extra-Curricular Items</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

Financial Support for Families

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

- *the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to eligible Centrelink Card Holders*
- *Individual Payment Plans for extra-curricular items and activities*
- *State Schools Relief (assistance with uniform, shoes and other school requirements)*

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact the school in person, by telephone or email.

Phone 03 5663 5263 Email: tarwin.lower.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Tarwin Lower Primary School has the following methods for payment:

- Cash
- Payment via Compass
- Direct Debit into the school's account

BSB 063000
ACCOUNT 14191631
NAME Tarwin Lower Primary School Council

PLEASE REMEMBER
TO CLEARLY
IDENTIFY YOUR
PAYMENT

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, the Department's Parent Payments 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.