BLACKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL
Est. 1889

03 9878 1483
185 Surrey Road,
Blackburn Vic 3130

blackburn.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Dear parents

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Blackburn Primary School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Blackburn Primary School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Skye Thornton, 03 9878 1483, skye.thornton@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 03 9878 1483. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Scott Minetti

Principal

Drew Rudland

School Council President

BLACKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL 2027 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	$500	$[parent to complete]

Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	$50	$[parent to complete]
Voluntary - Library fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements	$25	$[parent to complete]

Extra-curricular items and activities

Blackburn Primary School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, excursions and programs
- Whole School Swimming (subsidised)
- class photos

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities - Foundation	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost via Compass
School Photos – 3rd Party provider		
100 Day Celebration	$5	
Fairytale Fiasco	$20	
Kaboom Sports Day	$15	
Whole School Swimming (Gov't subsidised)	$80	
Buddy Zoo Excursion	$45	
Chinese Day	$5	
Book Fun Day	$5	
Science Day	$5	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	$180	

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Blackburn Primary School has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy: Maxim Office Group

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items a recommended list will be provided and published on our website when finalised.

Financial help for families

Blackburn Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Secondhand uniform store / sales organised by our Parents Volunteers where stock is available

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact: Skye Thornton, 03 9878 1483, skye.thornton@education.vic.gov.au

Extra-curricular items and activities – Grade 1&2	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost via Compass
School Photos – 3rd Party provider		
Como House	$30	
ACMI	$35	
Blackburn Lake Sanctuary	$0	
Whole School Swimming (Gov't subsidised)	$80	
Kaboom Sports Day	$12	
Chinese Day	$5	
Book Fun Day	$5	
Science Day	$5	
Musical Theatre or Art Gallery visit	$25	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	$197	

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Extra-curricular items and activities – Grade 3	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost via Compass
School Photos – 3rd Party provider		
Arthur's Seat Excursion	$35	
Coding technologies incursion	$20	
House Athletics	$15	
Whole School Swimming (Gov't subsidised)	$115	
Cyber Safety	$15	
Chinese Day	$8	
Book Fun Day	$8	
Science Day	$8	
Musical Theatre or Art Gallery visit	$30	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	$254	

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

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If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items a recommended list will be provided and published on our website when finalised.

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- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Secondhand uniform store / sales organised by our Parents Volunteers where stock is available

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

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Extra-curricular items and activities – Grade 4	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost via Compass
School Photos – 3rd Party provider		
Arthur's Seat excursion	$35	
Coding technologies incursion	$20	
Grade 4 Camp	$450	
House Athletics	$15	
Whole School Swimming (Gov't subsidised)	$115	
Cyber Safety	$15	
Chinese Day	$8	
Book Fun Day	$8	
Science Day	$8	
Musical Theatre or Art Gallery visit	$30	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	$704	

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Blackburn Primary School has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy: Maxim Office Group

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items a recommended list will be provided and published on our website when finalised.

Financial help for families

Blackburn Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Secondhand uniform store / sales organised by our Parents Volunteers where stock is available

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

Extra-curricular items and activities – Grade 5	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost via Compass
School Photos – 3rd Party provider		
Living & Growing	$55	
Parliament Excursion	$0	
Grade 5 Camp	$450	
Whole School Swimming	$115	
Cyber Safety	$15	
Chinese Day	$8	
Book Fun Day	$8	
Science Day	$8	
Maths Fun Day	$8	
Round Robin Winter Sport	$25	
Round Robin Summer Sport	$25	
House Athletics Day	$15	
Theatre/Gallery excursion	$30	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	$762	

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Blackburn Primary School has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy: Maxim Office Group

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items a recommended list will be provided and published on our website when finalised.

Financial help for families

Blackburn Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms -** delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Secondhand uniform store / sales organised by our Parents Volunteers where stock is available

Extra-curricular items and activities – Grade 6	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost via Compass
School Photos – 3rd Party provider		
Grip Leadership	$60	
Living & Growing	$55	
Parliament excursion	$0	
Buddy Zoo excursion	$45	
Graduation	$60	
Celebration Day	$60	
Grade 6 Camp	$450	
Whole School Swimming (subsidised)	$40	
Cyber Safety	$15	
Chinese Day	$8	
Book Fun Day	$8	
Science Day	$8	
Maths Fun Day	$8	
Round Robin Winter Sport	$25	
Round Robin Summer Sport	$25	
House Athletics Day	$15	
Theatre/Gallery excursion	$30	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	$912	

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Blackburn Primary School has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy: Maxim Office Group

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items a recommended list will be provided and published on our website when finalised.

Financial help for families

Blackburn Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.

- **Affordable School Uniforms -** delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Secondhand uniform store / sales organised by our Parents Volunteers where stock is available

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact: Skye Thornton, 03 9878 1483, skye.thornton@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

CompassPay
Blackburn Primary School uses the communication platform, Compass for attendance, excursions, incursions, camps and course confirmation and payment. Families may continue to make multiple contributions throughout the year in manageable amounts should you wish to and we can offer a variety of ways you can do this through Compass Pay.
Credit card payments via Compass is our preferred method of payment however Bpay remains a payment option.

Direct Debit:
Payments can be made directly into our school bank account:
BSB: 063 107
Account Number: 10020157
Account Name: Blackburn Primary School Council
Please note if making direct payments, an email to the school with the receipt and breakdown of how you would like your contributions allocated is essential.

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

Payment plans are available through Compass for extra-curricular items and activities. If you would like to set up payment plans that are more suitable to your personal financial situation please contact the school office 03 9878 1483, blackburn.ps@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, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact the school to make an appointment. Hard copies of any of the above information can be obtained by contacting the office.

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools must provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link the department's Parent Contributions policy.