

31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023

*Dear parent/guardian,*

*Ripplebrook Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Ripplebrook's voluntary financial contributions for 2023.*

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 have a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences, and enhanced digital learning opportunities.*

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

*Yours sincerely,*

*Nigel Kilpatrick*

*Principal*

*Jodie Wells*

*President*

<b>Curriculum Contributions</b> - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	<b>Amount</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Individual Student Materials – Provided through the School (\$50)</i></li> <li>• <i>Stars &amp; Cars Student Workbooks (\$20)</i></li> <li>• <i>Student Classroom Diary (no cost to families in 2023)</i></li> </ul>	\$70.00
<i>Online subscriptions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Essential Assessment (\$16.50)</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading Eggs (\$19.50)</i></li> <li>• <i>PAT Maths Assessment (\$22)</i></li> </ul>	\$58.00
<i>Whole school MARC Provision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Individual Student Cost (\$40)</i></li> </ul>	\$40.00
<i>Whole school events</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Small School Athletics Carnival (\$7)</i></li> </ul>	\$ 7.00
<b>Total Curriculum Contributions</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Other Contributions</b> - for non-curriculum items and activities	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Total Other Contributions</b>	\$

### **Educational items for students to own**

*Ripplebrook Primary School Council has decided to continue in 2023 the provision of individual school packs for all students whether the contribution is made or not.*

*We understand that requesting that families purchase these items means that the book list becomes considerably more expensive. We are conscious of these costs to families and the segregation it can lead to for students that purchase the most basic of supplies compared to those that are able to or willing to purchase from expensive shops (like Smiggle or Typo). Ripplebrook School Council will reassess this provision in 2024.*

### **Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis**

*Ripplebrook Primary School offers a range of optional 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.*

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

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
<i>Whole School Swimming</i>	\$50.00
<i>Whole School camp (to be advised)</i>	TBA
<i>Excursions to be scheduled (to be advised)</i>	TBA
<b>Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities</b>	\$

### Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund
- *State Schools Relief (SSR)*
- *Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities*

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

*Amanda McLaughlin*  
Acting Business Manager

Ph: 03 5627 6278 | Email: [Amanda.mclaughlin@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.mclaughlin@education.vic.gov.au)

### Total

Category	Totals
Curriculum Contributions	\$175.00
Other Contributions	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$

### Payment methods

- *BPay (preferred option) directly into the family accounts.*
- *Direct Credit Transfer to Ripplebrook Primary School Council bank account; BSB: 633000 - Account No: 138797469*
- *Cash paid at the office.*

### Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and are 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.

# 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 fulfill the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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.