



## NEWMERELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Newmerella Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Newmerella Primary School's Voluntary Financial Contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum obligations 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 our request for financial contribution, fundraising or volunteering your time. This makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to:

- Provide high quality programs and specialist class materials and equipment.
- Ensure the upkeep of our computer and IPAD devices to enhance learning opportunities.
- Maintain sufficient class sets of books for students to develop their reading skills.
- Facilitate Literacy and Mathematics online digital subscriptions.
- Deliver a range of materials to support our specialist subjects.

The total Curriculum Contribution for 2024 is **\$285** per student (**\$255** per student with a family pool pass).

### Extra-Curricular Items & Activities

Payments for Extra-Curricular activities will be requested on an opt-in or user pays basis in 2024. Please find attached an outline of Extra-Curricular options the school is proposing for 2024. Can you please indicate on the form the camps you would be likely to purchase so we can plan for viability and final costs of running these activities.

### Payment Methods

Cash or Cheques can be received at the school office

Direct Deposits - NAB BSB 083 001 Account 427881521

BPay - Contact the school office for BPAY codes

Centrepay deductions (centrelink) - Can be set up at the school office.

- An initial invitation for curriculum contributions will be sent 6 weeks prior to the commencement of the school year and requests will be sent out no more than once per term.
- All students have access to the standard Victorian Curriculum.
- Parents will be made aware of alternative payment options and an invitation to discuss these options on request to our office staff.
- Any record of payment or contributions by parents and guardians is to be kept confidential.

## Refunds

Newmerella Primary school will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances. Generally, we will not be able to refund payments made for costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred to a third party. For example, camp costs when a child becomes unwell and cannot attend in circumstances where the payment has already been made or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school.

### Students Leaving Newmerella PS

If a student transfers to another Victorian school including Secondary, the unspent portion of the CSEF (for students who are eligible) will be forwarded to the student's new school so the student has access to the full value of the payment.

If a student leaves the Victorian school system, the CSEF receipt will remain with the school and may be used towards the expenses for siblings, or school incurred costs associated with operating camps, sports or excursion activities for students.

Credit amounts of parent payments (ie: Cash, Direct Deposit, Centrepay, BPay instalments) held at the time of the student leaving Newmerella Primary School will be refunded back to the parent.

For further information on our school curriculum contributions, extra-curricular items and the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview.

Yours sincerely,

*Sarah Walker*  
*Acting Principal*

*Joanne Austin*  
*School Council President*

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Year Prep-Grade 6 classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stationery and Classroom Materials - shared classroom stationery, paper, posters/charts, classroom libraries, craft items, readers</li> <li>• Textbooks</li> <li>• Art, &amp; Book Week supplies and resources - paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, modelling materials, construction /assemblage materials, drawing equipment</li> <li>• Cooking ingredients</li> <li>• STEAM &amp; 3D printing</li> <li>• Physical Education - ribbons, certificates, rewards.</li> <li>• Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials to learn in class and at home and laminating pouches</li> <li>• First Aid equipment</li> </ul>	\$150.00
Year Prep-Grade 6 Subscriptions/ Affiliations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletics</li> <li>• Spelling Mastery</li> <li>• Compass School Manager</li> <li>• IT Apps</li> <li>• Essential Assessment</li> <li>• Inquisitive</li> <li>• School Sports Victoria Affiliation</li> </ul>	\$30.00
Year Prep-Grade 6 Whole school curriculum events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local class minor excursions which can include transport to and from all local events:- Examples- Swimming sessions, RSL - ANZAC, Winter sports practice, Athletic sports practice, Orbest Library, Coastal School, Cape Conran, Farm visits, NPS Musical rehearsals, OCC transition, Emergency Services day, Landcare, Cross country, The Arts etc.</li> </ul>	\$50.00
Swimming Program at Lakes Entrance Aquadome and Orbest Outdoor Pool Dates for swimming - (Term 2) 18/04, 25/04, 02/05, 09/05 and 16/05. 2 lessons on each day (10 lessons)	\$55.00
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$285.00</b>
Total Amount - <b>for families with a family pool entry pass</b>	<b>\$255.00</b>

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

Our school purchases all stationery and student supplies in bulk and distributes them to the classrooms in preparation for the school year. These items are included in the Curriculum Contributions.

### **Financial Support for Families**

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

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) (\$150)
- State School's Relief (SSR)
- School Breakfast Program
- Payment by instalments
- Centrepay - a free voluntary service for Centrelink customers to pay expenses as regular deductions from their Centrelink payments. Centrepay can help families to pay for many types of bills such as education expenses, childcare, rent, electricity, gas, water bills or medical services.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements please contact Sarah Walker, Sharon Gilbert or Wendy Matthews.

Phone: 03 5154 1620 Email: [newmerella.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:newmerella.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Please return this page to nominate your child’s Extra Curricular Items for 2024

Student Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

Newmerella PS offers a range of items and activities that enhances or broadens 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.

If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please indicate on the table below and return this to the school by *the start of school 2024*.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities - opt in and user pays	Approximate Amounts	Purchase (Please tick)
Optional Grade 6 school camp Ballarat (12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024)	\$475	
Optional Grade 5 school camp Ballarat (12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024)	\$475	
Optional Grade 4 school camp Coolamatong (25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024)	\$335	
Optional Grade 3 school camp Coolamatong (25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024)	\$335	
Optional Grades 1 & 2 sleepover and day excursion	\$50	
Optional Grade Prep day excursion	\$30	
Optional Interschool Sports Program usually for Grades 3-6 students- bus fares- Usually around 4 per year	\$10 - \$20 per trip	
<b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities – Payment not due to later during the year.</b>		\$

**Total**

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$285 or \$255 with pool pass
Other Contributions	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities amounts to be confirmed – (these are not due until during the 2024 year)	TBC



**Please tick if you would like to use your CSEF, Centrepay or Bpay credits for 2024 Curriculum Contributions as well as Extra Curricular Activities.**

# 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.