EASTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DEAF FACILITY
ENTHUSIASM PRECEDES SUCCESS

Alexandra Rd
Ringwood East VIC 3135

Phone: (03) 9870 6103
Web: www.eastwood.vic.edu.au
Email: eastwood.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the School Council, and as parents with children at the school ourselves, we are writing to accompany the Department of Education's (DET) official Parent Contributions letter for 2027. We want to take this opportunity to highlight why voluntary parent contributions remain essential to sustaining the rich, engaging learning environment our children experience every day, and to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed in 2026.

While government funding covers the basic operations of a school, such as standard classroom furniture and minimal learning resources, it does not cover everything that makes our school special. Minimum funding alone cannot sustain:

- **Specialist Programs:** Subjects such as Science & Technology (STEM), Visual Arts, Auslan, Physical Education, and Performing Arts require specialized equipment and materials beyond basic funding.
- **School Grounds & Facilities:** Upgrades to facilities, ongoing garden maintenance, and new playground spaces rely on additional funding streams.

Programs like these thrive because of funds raised directly by our school community through voluntary parent contributions, fundraising efforts, and successful grant applications. In recent years, our school has benefited from significant improvements, including upgraded school grounds and new outdoor play equipment, solely because of these combined efforts.

Historically, strong parent support has played a vital role in providing well-equipped classrooms and high-quality resources for our specialist programs. Without parent contributions, our school will simply be unable to sustain the high standard of programs and facilities our children currently enjoy, which would force us to reduce budget allocations across several learning areas in 2027 and beyond.

We fully understand that the increasing cost of living is impacting many families in our community. Please know that any contribution—no matter how small—makes a meaningful difference. Every dollar contributed goes directly toward ensuring that every child at Eastwood Primary School & Deaf Facility has access to richer learning opportunities, deeper care, and a stronger sense of belonging.

How to Contribute or Access Support:

- **Flexible Amounts:** Contributions can be made and edited directly via **Compass Course Confirmation / Payments**.
- **Payment Plans:** If you would like to set up a flexible payment plan tailored to your family's needs, please reach out to our office team.
- **Financial Assistance:** If you are experiencing financial hardship, confidential support is available. Please contact our Business Manager, Kelly Frank, at **kelly.frank@education.vic.gov.au**.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, support, and dedication to making Eastwood Primary School & Deaf Facility an exceptional place for our children to learn and grow.

Warm regards,



Skye Cameron - EPS & Deaf Facility School Council President

EASTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DEAF FACILITY
ENTHUSIASM PRECEDES SUCCESS

Alexandra Rd
Ringwood East VIC 3135

Phone: (03) 9870 6103
Web: www.eastwood.vic.edu.au
Email: eastwood.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Eastwood Primary School & Deaf Facility 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.

Eastwood Primary School & Deaf Facility 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 our Business Manager, Kelly Frank, kelly.frank@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 9605 3000 and give our school's phone number 9870 6103. 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,

Rukshana Verzijl
Principal

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.		$250.00
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		$50.00
Voluntary - Library fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements		$50.00

Extra-curricular items and activities

Eastwood Primary & Deaf Facility 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, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events like graduation.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made when the event is live on Compass. For selected events, payments can also be made via instalment.

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

Learning materials for students to own

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.

Eastwood Primary School and Deaf Facility has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy:

- Maxim Office Group - https://www.maximbooklists.com.au/

Financial help for families

Eastwood Primary School & Deaf Facility 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. CSEF applications must be received by our office each year and a copy of a valid concession card must be provided. Form must be submitted to the office by end of February.
- **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 selected Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Second hand uniform store / sales

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:

Kelly Frank, Business Manager,
Ph: 03 9870 6103 Email: Kelly.frank@education.vic.gov.au

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

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

via the Compass Parent Portal or over the counter at the office. If you need the office to set up a payment plan on your behalf, please contact Kelly Frank, Business Manager, via email kelly.frank@education.vic.gov.au and this can be organised.

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 of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy.

ABN: 80 634 406 769

How to online order with Maxim Office Group Pty Ltd

Eastwood Primary School

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for supporting **Eastwood PS** with the online portal for Bookpack purchasing. We have partnered with Maxim Office Group Pty Ltd to ensure a seamless school start for 2027. Packs will be delivered to the school for collection.

Please Note:

- **Orders must be placed by Sunday 27th of December 2026** to guarantee on-time delivery for collection from the school. Any orders placed after this date will incur a $15 late fee and be delivered within the first two weeks back of Term 1, 2027.

- For bookpack **collection dates**, please contact the school office on **(03) 9870 6103**

How to order your Bookpack:

Please follow this link: http://www.maxim.booklists.com.au or go to our main website and click the link 'BOOKLIST' as indicated below



1. Your access code is: **EASTWOODPS**
   **Please note this is capital sensitive. Please enter code as displayed above.*
2. Select the year level required for order ***This is the year your child is going into for 2027.***
3. Please ensure that the students' name, your name and contact details are given and correct
4. Select 'Place order'
5. If purchasing more than one booklist, please select 'Add another booklist' and follow the same procedure from step 3
6. Select 'Proceed to payment options'
7. Your total payment amount required will be displayed on screen
8. Select 'Pay Now'

9. Please choose your check-out option – Credit/ Direct Debit available. Ensure payment details are correctly entered
10. You will receive a payment receipt and an order confirmation to the email address you provided
11. Your child's pack/s will be delivered to the school for collection

Thank you,
Maxim Office Group Pty Ltd