Thornbury Primary School

1st November 2025

STEINER – FOUNDATION, CLASS 1 & CLASS 2

Dear parent/guardian,

Thornbury Primary School] is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Thornbury Primary School's Voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum requirements and all contributions towards this provision are voluntary (see Curriculum & Other Contributions in attached information).

Alternative forms of instruction such as Steiner deliver the curriculum through non-standard instructional methods and differ from the standard Victorian curriculum, which is provided for free. For this reason, the Steiner stream is provided on a user-pays basis (extra-curricular).

Thornbury Primary School makes every effort to keep financial contribution requirements to a minimum, and to be affordable for all families. We understand that some families may face financial difficulty, and to support families, there is a range of support options and alternative payment arrangements available. For a confidential discussion, please contact our Business Manager, Shirley Brown on 9484 3254.

We want to thank you for all your support, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. In 2025, some of these funds resourced the highly successful STEM program at our school, to continue upgrading classroom reading and numeracy materials, completion of the Babajen garden project, installation of 'sound garden' instruments, purchase of new sports uniforms, and the very popular Gaga Pit.

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

Yours sincerely,

David Wells

Principal

Darby Fullerton

School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items & activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	**Amount**
Classroom consumables, materials & equipment • STEM – Materials & equipment eg. Robotics, 3D printing, Stop Motion • Mathematics –classroom numeracy sets and materials • English – book boxes • Language & Culture – Indigenous learning resources • Sports – equipment • Online Subscriptions: Essential Assessments, Apps • Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials • Parent communication tools (eg. Compass, NAAVI)	$95
Total Curriculum Contributions	**$95**

Other Contributions (Voluntary) - for non-curriculum items and activi ties	**Amount**
Student wellbeing programs (Suggested amount only)	$50
First aid equipment (Suggested amount only)	$50
School grounds maintenance and improvements (suggested amount only)	$50
Total Other Contributions (Please insert total)	**$**

Extra-Curricular Items & Activities – (Steiner)

Thornbury PS 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. This includes our Steiner curriculum stream. Alternative forms of instruction such as Steiner, deliver the curriculum through non-standard instructional methods and differ from the standard Victorian curriculum, which is provided for free. For this reason, the Steiner stream is provided on a user-pays basis (extra-curricular).Your fees go towards Steiner specific resources across the curriculum, Steiner specific furniture and items for classrooms. It also ensures that staff have access to ongoing Steiner professional development to improve their pedagogy. Please note that incursions, excursions, and camps are not included in this payment. These events will be invoiced as they occur throughout the year

Steiner Classes P-2 - Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – Alternative Curriculum	**Amount**
Steiner Classrooms & Craft: Steiner Specific Items Steiner specific individual student stationery & materials including drawing & watercolour papers, main lesson books, block & stick Stockmar crayons, Lyra pencils, specialised blackboard chalk, wet on wet painting paper, Stockmar paints, wool, paintbrushes, beeswax, fountain pens, ink, Mercurius watercolour pencils. Steiner Classroom items such as materials for crayon rolls, pencil rolls, chair bags, nature table items, toys and furniture. Craft materials such as wool, felting needles, rope looms etc. Class 1 students will require a specific type of recorder, please see your class teacher for advice.	$230
Steiner General: Steiner specific PD for staff; Steiner Education Australia affiliation	$20
Excursions/Incursions– User pays	TBA
Garden Program (Instructor salary costs, materials/equipment) • *Students have the opportunity to participate in a weekly garden / environmental program where they will learn about horticulture and develop their love of gardening* • *Please notify the school if your child/ren will or will not be participating on next page*	$100
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (insert total extra-curricular here >)	**$**

Financial Support for Families

Thornbury 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)
- 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:

Shirley Brown (Business Manager
Ph: 03 9484 3254 | Email: shirley.brown@education.vic.gov.au

Parent to complete - Please return this page to the school office

(Steiner) Student Name:	**Class:**
Category	**Totals**
Extra-Curricular Items & Activities – Steiner Alternative Curriculum (incl Orchestra)	$ 250
Extra-Curricular – Garden Program Will your child be participating? No ☐ Yes ☐ Please insert $100 here>	$
Curriculum Contributions	$
Other Contributions	$
Total	**$**

Payment methods

Parents are able to make payment from 1st December 2025 via the Compass portal (a range of instalment options are available)

Payment in full can still be made via EftPos at the school office however, Compass is the preferred payment method. Split billing can be arranged on request.

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major 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	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.