Dear Parents/Guardians,

Churchill Primary School provides a comprehensive educational program for all students, covering all areas of the AusVELS curriculum. School fees are an essential part of our school’s funding and although every school receives an annual budget from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), it is not sufficient to cover all running costs of the school and without the revenue from school fees it would not be possible to provide many aspects of your child’s education that you have come to expect.

We strive to keep fees as low as possible and our fees are lower than most in our region. The fees are set on the assumption that all parents will pay the prescribed amount per student in 2015.

School Council have set the fees for 2015 at $175.00 for essential education items and have decided to remove the incursion levy from the start of year payments in an effort to help families who will be affected by the removal of the previous EMA system. Parents will now be asked to pay for incursions on an individual basis as they arise throughout the year and we hope that this helps alleviate some of the pressures in getting the kids back to school.

Any families struggling to pay fees in full on the collection day are welcome to talk to our Business Manager and a Fee Payment Plan can be organised on an individual basis. Any such arrangement will be strictly confidential.

Please note however, that books are unable to be distributed without an agreed deposit being paid on collection day.

**DETAIL:**

**Part A: Individual / Bulk Supplies:**

- Items ordered for use by individual students

  $60.00 per child

**Part B: Curriculum Levy (For use specifically for the purchase of materials and Essential Educational Items for):**

- Art / Craft
- Physical Education
- Photocopying
- First Aid supplies
- Classroom Books

- Library
- Computers, Netbooks, iPads
- Gardening / Animal Program
- Library Books
- Maths Equipment

$115.00 per child

**Total**  $175.00 per child

Our school office will be open from 9 am to 3 pm on Wednesday 28th of January to allow parents to pay their fees and collect their books. The uniform shop will also be open on this day, between 10am and 1pm, for families wishing to collect uniform orders or purchase new uniform items.

**Please note: student books will only be issued on receipt of payment.**
SchoolKids Bonus

We are pleased to be able to provide you with the following information regarding financial support to low income families. The ‘SchoolKids Bonus’ is new and will potentially be even better for families than the previous EMA system. This will be available to families from January 1st, 2015.

The SchoolKids Bonus is a Commonwealth Government payment to assist eligible families with education costs. The Bonus is automatically paid by the Commonwealth Department of Human Services in two instalments each year. Parents do not need to make a claim for this payment.

To be eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus, the parent/carer must:

- receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child in primary or secondary education
- have a primary or secondary student turning 19 years or younger in the calendar year, who receives certain government payments satisfy an income test (applicable from 1 January 2015)

From 1 January 2015, eligible families will receive the Schoolkids Bonus in:

- 2 instalments of $211 for each child in primary school - a total of $422 each year
- 2 instalments of $421 for each child in secondary school - a total of $842 each year.

Payment Options

At Churchill Primary School we have introduced the use of BPAY so parents/guardians will have the opportunity to pay for school related expenses e.g. Material requisite charges, excursions and camps via BPAY in addition to Cash, Cheque, Credit or EFTPOS.

To use BPAY you will need the Biller Code for Churchill Primary School as well as your own UNIQUE Reference Number. You will find both these numbers on your family statement.

BPAY transactions are not instant, therefore excursion and camp payments will need to be made at least 48 hours prior to the payment due date to ensure your payment reaches the school in time for your child to attend the event.

It is important to remember when paying via BPAY that you return the notice/permission slip to school so that payments through our bank can be correctly matched to your family account. Please indicate your method of payment on the return slip.

If you choose to pay for a specific school related expense via BPAY you must notify the school by email at churchill.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au that this payment has been made. Alternately, you can use the remittance section on the right hand side of the family statement to indicate how you would like your payment to be allocated.

If a BPAY payment is made without notification of items you wish to allocate the payment against, the oldest outstanding debt will be credited.

As with Credit Cards and EFTPOS, a minimum of $10 per transaction will apply.
Other costs to consider
Throughout the year different year levels will partake in various activities that may also have a cost associated with them. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Grade 6 T-Shirt approx. $30
Grade 3/4 Camp approx. $230
Grade 5/6 Camp approx. $250
P-2 Swimming Program approx. $70
Victorian State Schools Spectacular approx. $150
Various Incursions (whole School) approx. $7 per child per incursion (at least 3 per year)
Yinnar & District Sports (whole School) approx. $4 per child

Please note: These prices are indicative only and will be subject to change.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

We wish you all the best for the holiday period and look forward to seeing you early next year.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Gilmore
PRINCIPAL