



November, 2025

Dear Parent/Carers

RE: START OF SCHOOL 2026

Ararat West Primary School (AWPS) is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning in 2026. Please read the following information carefully.

School Charges

Please find attached the Curriculum Contributions List for 2026, endorsed by School Council at the November meeting. Our aim is always to keep the amount contributed by each family as low as possible but also to ensure that our students have quality learning resources for the year ahead. Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum, and 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 your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

The Curriculum Contribution is used to provide the majority of school materials and services for your child i.e. books, paper, art/craft, pens, rulers, pencils, and curriculum related programs. Your child will be issued with his/her Starter Book Pack at the beginning of the year, and this will be replenished throughout the year as needed. Replacement items due to wilful and deliberate damage or loss will be the responsibility of the parents.

The other financial contributions listed assist us with the purchasing of equipment and resources so that we can run quality art, science, languages and physical education programs.

Financial Support for Families

AWPS understands that some families may experience financial difficulty, and we offer a range of support options, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – *this is for Health Care Card holders. Please see Tianee at the school office for information about this fund. Please note that if CSEF funds are available the school will utilise these funds for the swimming programs and activities/excursions.*
- **State School Supply** – families can access support with uniforms. Please see Tianee at the school office.
- **Payment Plans** – *please see the Parent Contribution Schedules for a breakdown per year level. We are always able to work with our families to put payment plans in place.*

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

Tianee Hurst

Ph: 03 5352 1909 | Email: ararat.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Payment Methods

The school has both Direct Deposit and Bpay access. Families who wish to use either process to make payments can contact Tianee at the office. Bpay is the preferred method of payment and each family is assigned their own reference number.



Direct Deposit details: WESTPAC: Ararat West Primary School

BSB: 033201 **Account No:** 226429

IMPORTANT—If payments are made by Direct Deposit, please ensure a name and short description is added so that the money can be assigned to the correct family and item. If a name is not included, we have no way of knowing who to allocate the money to.

Refunds

Please see the attached refund document for further information along with the Department's Parent Payment Policy one-page overview attached to the Contribution Schedule.

Return to School

Tuesday January 27

- all staff will return to school

Wednesday January 28 & Thursday January 29

- Individualised Student Assessment days

Friday January 30

- all students return to school

These dates were approved at the November School Council Meeting. The Individual Student Assessment days allow for students to have a smooth start to the school year after the long summer break. Students chat with their teacher, see their classroom, undertake literacy and numeracy assessments, and gently transition back to school. Booking processes will be sent home with students before the end of the year. Please make every effort to book a time to support your child/ren to have a smooth transition back to school.

Foundation Students

Foundation students attend school four days per week throughout the month of February, with Wednesdays being a rest day. Teachers may book your child in for attendance on a Wednesday for additional start of school assessments, as these take a bit longer than the time allocated on the initial testing days. Foundation students will not be required to be at school on the following dates: -

February 4, 11, 18, 25 & March 4.

Tissues

In 2026 we are asking families to please provide one box of facial tissues per family at the start of the school year. AWPS will then top-up supplies throughout the year as needed. Please deliver the facial tissues to the Front Office during Back-to-School Assessment Days. We thank you for your assistance in supporting this very important resource as it is required for ALL students over the year.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Sue Knight
Principal

Mr Andrew Marx
School Council President