

26th November, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

2021 - FEES & PAYMENTS (Essential Items)

The new year of 2021 will see the Goonawarra Primary School community continue to grow and evolve, offering rich and diverse learning opportunities for our students. If you are a new family joining us next year, we welcome you to our school community and hope that you and your child(ren) enjoy your time at GPS over the coming years. If you are an existing family returning next year, we look forward to seeing you refreshed in the new year.

This letter outlines GPS's fees and parent payment arrangements for 2021. School Council, made up of teaching staff and parents, is very proud of our school and the achievements of our students. It is within the context of support for the great work of our teachers, and the continued success of our students, that the annual review of parent payments is undertaken. Affordability is a prime consideration, as are the educational outcomes available to our children.

Victorian legislation and Education Department policy requires that the standard curriculum is delivered free to all students within government schools, and GPS supports this fundamental principle of access to free education. The school fees set and endorsed by School Council are for programs and materials beyond standard curriculum delivery – health and wellbeing, online resources and medical care to enhance the educational opportunities/experiences available to our students and support the work that makes GPS great.

For the delivery of GPS's enriched student learning program, the annual 2021 school fee works out to less than \$3.20 per week per student. We appreciate your contribution in enabling us to deliver a high-quality, multi-faceted program that nurtures the development of the whole child and provides a rich and engaging learning foundation for all students.

To summarise:

Standard Curriculum	Free to all students
Essential Student Learning Items	GPS programs and materials over-and-above standard curriculum delivery. These include booklist and class materials, visual and performing arts, Human development and respectful relationships sessions, First Aide, and a wide range of sporting opportunities, all of which add to the diversity and richness of the school experience offered at GPS. School Council requests that parents regard these as a required payment. Importantly, these items are not to be confused with that provided by the standard curriculum delivery.
Voluntary Financial Contributions	Recommended and important, but voluntary. This year families have a choice of tax-deductible donations to the School Library Fund or a non-deductible Voluntary Contribution toward plans to enhance the school's play spaces and outdoor learning environments.

2020 FEES

School Council approved the following annual fees for 2021. Fees are due by the start of Term 1 and can be paid on an annual or per term basis. Please complete the tear off slip below.

The following are key dates from when payments can be made:

Round 1: 26th November 2020 up until **Thursday, 10th December 2020**.

Round 2: **Wednesday, 27th January, 2021**.

Payments can be made via QKR or Credit card / eftpos only. **NO cash payments will be taken.** Due to COVID19 restrictions - Packs will then be placed in your child's 2021 classroom ready for use on the first day of the year.

ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING and ITEMS

	Foundation -6
<i>Booklist</i>	\$50
<i>First Aide (Medical Officer)</i>	\$50
<i>Incursion (Term 1 Talking The Talk)</i>	\$20
<i>Online Subscriptions Mathletics/Pearson books/Acer assessment</i>	\$40
Annual Fee Payable	\$160
Per Term Fee Payable	T1 \$40/ T2 \$40/ T3 \$40 /T4 \$40

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary financial contributions by parents are an increasingly important source of funding for the school and assist in ensuring our facilities and programs operate at a high standard. As for all Victorian State Schools, the funding provided for the delivery of the standard curriculum varies from school to school and is adjusted annually according to the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA). This means that schools in areas with children with higher needs receive increased funding while schools in areas with higher socio-economic and educational profiles receive less funding.

We hope that many more families will help to grow this important source of school funding next year. For 2021, if it is within your family's means, please consider contributing. Voluntary contributions alleviate pressure on the main funding sources, enabling the school's core budget to remain focused on delivering enriched educational outcomes for all of our children. If we all give a little, together, our impact can be great.

Voluntary financial contributions can be made as a non-deductible general voluntary contribution, or as a tax-deductible contribution to the School's Library or Building Funds. School Council would like to put contributions to the Building Fund on hold and has set the following expenditure goals for voluntary contributions:

2021 Library Fund Goal

Tax-deductible contributions made to the Library Fund are used for the acquisitions and operations of the school library, ensuring that it remains a well-resourced and vital educational hub for our students and families. A key goal for 2021 is to refresh and expand the range of take-home reader books for students across all year levels to inspire life-long readers.

2021 Nature base Play and enhancing our active play equipment.

The primary goal for 2021 is for funds to be directed towards the staged development of the school's indigenous passive area. This is an ambitious project which will see the school's wonderful grounds enhanced with creative, engaging, and nature-focused play. This work is expensive and not directly funded by the department, so will be financed through fundraising efforts, donations and any grants we are able to obtain. Generous donations now will broaden the scope of works able to be undertaken in 2021, enabling better play and outdoor learning spaces sooner – an exciting development for the children – and the whole school community.

SUPPORT OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

School Council recognise everyone's family circumstances are different, and as such our school is committed to supporting parents and guardians who are experiencing either short term or long term hardship and may be unable to make the requested payments on time. If these circumstances apply to your family, School Council encourages you to have a confidential discussion with Dolores Giordimaina or Assistant Principal, Carla Copley. The school can offer alternate payment options to assist your family and provide details about financial and other types of support that may be available. More information, including the school's parent payment policy and details about cost support for families is available on the departments website.

Dolores Giordimaina
Principal

Shawn Hindmarsh
School Council President

Essential Items (Individual & Shared) Contribution \$160 per child

Please submit from to the Office or email form to goonawarra.ps@education.vic.gov.au

FAMILY NAME: _____

Option One

Child's Name	Grade Level in 2021	Total
Total Amount paid via QKR OR Credit Card/Eftpos	Total	\$ _____

Term Fee will require families to contact the school and make online Eftpos/credit card payments. The following are dates when installments must be made.

Option Two

Term One instalment must be paid by (Friday 8th February 2021)	\$ 40
Term Two instalment must be paid by (Friday 30th April 2021)	\$ 40
Term Three instalment must be paid by (Friday 20th July 2021)	\$ 40
Term Four instalment must be paid by (Friday 22nd October)	\$ 40

Families who wish to contribute to any of the following funds will need contact the school so that an online Eftpos/credit card payment can be made. I would like to thank parents/carers in advance for their support.

General voluntary contribution	\$ _____
Voluntary contribution library fund (Tax deductible)	\$ _____
Voluntary Contribution building fund (Tax deductible)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____