Dear Parents/Carers,

Our School Council has reviewed and approved charges and contributions for 2016. You will find them in the attached formal request from Peter Martin, in the Department of Education’s agreed format.

We believe it is important to explain the charges and how vital they are to ensure adequate materials and equipment.

We are a government school – don’t they fund the education of our children?

We receive a State Government School cash grant which funds, to a minimum standard, parts of our curriculum programs, some IT, a share of utilities and some maintenance. This is only a portion of the running costs for the school. The essential education items are stationery packs which parents are required to pay. We ask them to also pay the voluntary contributions.

What is the ‘Voluntary Contributions’ money used for?
The Voluntary Contributions cover the gap between what the government provides and what the school actually needs. These contributions pay for resources and equipment in Literacy, Numeracy, the Arts, Humanities, French and Sport and improvements to play equipment and outdoor play areas.

A breakdown of the 2016 Charges is outlined in the attached request.

The Port Melbourne Primary School Council has approved the school’s Parent Payment Policy. This policy can be accessed at Port Melbourne Primary School’s website.

What if I want to pay but am unable to due to financial hardship?

We wish to maintain the charges at a reasonable level and not to put any family under any financial strain. The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting payment requests. There are a number of options available, such as the Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF for holders of an eligible Health Care Card), the Schoolkids Bonus and State Schools Relief. Please contact the school office if you would like more information.

What payment options are available?

Payments can be made via Qkr! (details on the school website), BPaying, credit card or by cash or cheque to the classroom teacher or school office. Please complete the attached invoice and return it with your payment.

Payments can be made in one lump sum or by instalments. Those wishing to pay by instalment should contact our Business Manager, Kaye Linsdell (9646 1001) to make appropriate arrangements.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Kind regards,

Annette Maloney
School Council President.