

# Thomastown West Primary School Newsletter



Email: [thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au) Phone: 9465 4317

## 2023 IMPORTANT DATES:

Fri	15 Dec	TWPS Intra-school Transition: <b>Students meet their 2024 Teacher</b>
Fri	15 Dec	Semester 2 Student Reports available to Parents and Carers via COMPASS
Fri	15 Dec	Grade 5/6 Class Celebrations
Mon	18 Dec	<b>Grade 6 Graduation</b>
Tue	19 Dec	<b>CURRICULUM DAY</b> <i>Students do not attend school.</i>
Wed	20 Dec	<b>Last Day of Term 4</b> Whole School Assembly 12pm Students dismissed 1:15pm

## 2024 IMPORTANT DATES:

Mon	29 Jan	<b>Curriculum Day 1</b> <i>Students do not attend school</i>
Tues	30 Jan	<b>Curriculum Day 2</b> <i>Students do not attend school</i>
Wed	31 Jan	<b>Term 1 begins for Grades 1 - 6</b>
Mon	5 Feb	<b>Term 1 begins for Prep students</b>
Weds	7, 14, 21, 28	Preps do not attend school in Wednesdays in February
Thur	22 Feb	<b>Kaboom Sports Family Fun afternoon!</b> 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Wed	27 Mar	<b>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences</b>
Thur	28 Mar	Last day of Term 1
Mon	15 Apr	<b>First day of Term 2</b>
Thur	02 May	<b>SCHOOL PHOTO DAY</b>
Tues	11 June	<b>Curriculum Day 3</b> <i>Students do not attend school</i>
Fri	28 June	Last day of Term 2
Mon	15 July	<b>First day of Term 3</b>
Wed	11 Sept	<b>Whole School Professional Practice Day</b> <i>Students do not attend school</i>
Thur	19 Sept	<b>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences</b>
Fri	20 Sept	Last day of Term 3
Mon	07 Oct	<b>First day of Term 4</b>
Mon	4 Nov	<b>Curriculum Day 4</b> <i>Students do not attend school</i>
Fri	20 Dec	Last day of Term 4, 2024

No.39 15th December 2023

## From the Principal Team

After a very busy and successful Term 4, we have arrived at the last newsletter for this school year, with just 1.5 school days left (Monday and Wednesday with a 1:15pm finish). The students and TWPS staff are all definitely ready for their break. Mr. Crotti and I take immense pride in the progress our school has made this year and the accomplishments we've achieved. We are excited about carrying on this work into 2024 and beyond!

### URGENT: 2024 BOOK PACKS

Have you ordered or organised your child 2024 Book Pack yet?  
**DO NOT MISS OUT!!!**

<http://www.maxim.booklists.com.au>

Payments must be made before 15th December 2023: please note the **MAXIM portal** for ordering TWPS Education items **will close and not take orders from 18/12/23.**



Mr. Crotti and I extend our gratitude to our incredible staff at TWPS. Every member, in their unique role, contributes immensely to our students' learning and wellbeing journey—supporting, challenging, inspiring, and educating them, guiding each step toward their future aspirations. As John Dewey aptly said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." All of our Education Support Staff, Teachers, and Wellbeing Team have worked incredibly hard this year to ensure that our students receive the best possible education and support. Their dedication, passion, and tireless efforts have made a profound impact on the lives of our students, fostering a positive environment where they can thrive and grow. Thank you to the TWPS TEAM for your hard work, compassion, and unwavering commitment to shaping the future of our students. **Your contributions do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.**

Congratulations to all of our students for living our school values and completing another successful year of schooling! We are continually impressed by your enthusiasm, growth mindset and hard work when exploring in the learning pit during the inquiry phases of the lessons! Wishing our Grade 6 students a fabulous Graduation evening on Monday evening and continued success in all your future endeavours

We would also like to thank our 2023 School Councillors for their time and efforts this year. We have a fantastic School Council who are very supportive of our school. In our newsletter next year, there will be information about how you can join School Council in 2024, if you are interested.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, **we simply couldn't do what we do without our wonderful parent and carer volunteers!** Your special gift is still on the way! Staff illness has impacted TWPS during the last fortnight.

We welcome a number of new families to our school for the first time in 2023. We met many of our new students this afternoon for our MEET THE TEACHER transition session. Many have joined us because they have heard great reports about our wonderful school. I know you will join me in welcoming both students and their families to our community.

We sadly say goodbye to some families this year who are moving houses, some in Victoria, some interstate and others to some of the new schools which are closer to their homes. We wish you all well for the future.

Meet the Teacher

**This afternoon marked an important event for our students as they met their 2024 teachers and classmates.** Navigating change can be challenging! For some children, this time of the year and the initial weeks of the upcoming term can pose difficulties. We completely understand! It's a transition from a classroom where they've spent a year building relationships with their teacher and friends.

Today Mrs Colakovski reassured the students that Mr. Crotti, the teachers and I have dedicated considerable time and effort when creating the 2024 classes. Occasionally, there might be adjustments, but there are also instances where we need to balance friendships to optimise learning opportunities for students. We've discussed the importance of maintaining an open mind, focusing on positive thoughts and our school value of resilience. Today it was emphasised to the students the value of giving this new arrangement a chance for the first three weeks of school. After that period, if significant concerns persist, we're open to arranging a meeting with parents or caregivers to explore additional support options.

We have included an article from Beyond Blue about resilience on pages 5 and 6. It includes a website with additional information about building your child's resilience that you may find valuable.

2024 Classes

**We are very excited to announce the following grade structures for 2024.** TWPS School Council supports the 2024 Grade Structures, understanding that we have been constrained by enrolment numbers. **We are confident that the new structure, teamed with our talented and experienced teachers, will provide the best learning environment for our TWPS students.**

Next year will be the first time that our school will introduce Prep/1 classes. We understand there may be initial queries or concerns regarding this shift. Please allow us to address some of the positive aspects of this change:

**Optimal Learning Environment:** Our talented and experienced teachers have carefully curated a classroom structure designed to cater to varying academic and social needs. With differentiated English and Maths instruction, our educators will work in small groups, tailoring teaching pedagogies to ensure each child's skills and understanding are nurtured effectively.

**Inquiry-Based Learning:** Our traditional TWPS Inquiry units, though not previously utilised for P/1s and 1/2s, are currently undergoing review and modification. The Prep and 1/2 Team Leaders are collaborating to ensure consistency in curriculum delivery, ensuring a seamless transition for our Grade 1 students.

**Interactions and Collaboration:** Throughout the year, teachers will establish structures that foster interactions between

students in the Prep/1 class and those in the 1/2 classes. This interaction will promote a sense of unity and collaboration among students across different grade levels.

We understand that some parents may have concerns about their child being placed in a Prep/1 class instead of a 1/2 class. Rest assured, the selection process was based on professional judgement, considering academic and social suitability, along with friendship requests. Our teachers have meticulously evaluated each student to ensure they are placed in an environment that best suits their needs for growth and development. It should also be noted that five local schools choose to utilise the Prep/1 class structure and have achieved excellent results for all students' learning and wellbeing.

2024 classes	Names	2024 Room
Prep/1	Kiara Galea	2
Prep/1	Sue Hrovat	3
Grade 1/2	Samantha Rovtar	5
Grade 1/2	Silvana Skender	6
3/4	Lenora Denise & Josh Fielding	15
3/4	Val Orsillo & Nour Ibrahim	16
3/4	Penny Koulinos	17
5/6	Effie Santiglia	9
5/6	Fil Raif	10
5/6	Connie Gaeta & Alicia Bartholomew	11
5/6	Tiz Rocca & Alicia Bartholomew	12
Visual Arts	Margot Sheean	Art room
Music	Oscar Rosa	Music room
PE	Selma Raif	Multi-purpose room
SCIENCE P-2	Najah Halabi	STEM room
STEM 3-6	Najah Halabi	STEM room
EAL support	Margot Sheean	Art room
Disability & Inclusion	Violeta Colakovski	Admin Building
Student Wellbeing	Gurleen Gogia	Wellbeing Room
Tutor	Nick Climo	Room 8
Teacher Aides	Genella Irons Carmen Bellofiore Kellie Firth Emily Kealy Chantelle Caruana Susan Van Den Berg	Room 1

Additionally, it is important to note that while the class is labelled as 'Prep/1', our educators are skilled at addressing a diverse range of abilities within a classroom setting. The title of the class does not limit our teachers' ability to cater to individual student needs, ensuring each child receives the necessary support and challenges to progress academically and socially.

We recognise that change can evoke concerns, but we are excited about the opportunities this new class structure presents for our students. We are confident that through our dedicated efforts and your continued support, we will create an engaging and rewarding academic journey for your child at Thomastown West Primary School.

### Student Reports

The Semester 2 Student Reports were made available for you to view online today. Please take the time to read them and have a conversation with your child about their results, as well as the **2023 Student Self Assessment** reflection they completed this term.

### Victorian Fisheries Authority – Little Angler Kits

The Victorian Government has invested \$1.5 million from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Fund to provide up to 95,000 Little Angler Kits to primary school aged children in Victoria. The free kits provide a wonderful school holiday activity for children with their families and help ease the cost of living, providing a fun activity close to home. **Grade 5 students have been selected based on the Victorian Curriculum focus, movement and motor development, and safety considerations.** The program is entirely voluntary. Schools were provided with the option to opt out of the program. Our school has opted to stay in the program so that parents can decide whether they want their child(ren) to receive a free fishing kit. **Parents of Grade 5 students can advise the school if they do not wish their child(ren) to participate for any reason whatsoever. If you would prefer your Grade 5 child does not receive a fishing kit, please email [thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au)**

We support parents in making decisions that align with their family values and beliefs. The school will give out the kit to year 5 children on Monday 18th December so the children will have a kit in time for the summer school holidays. The kits include a rod, reel with line, tackle tray, some tackle and information on how to use them to catch a fish. Please note that the tackle tray includes fishing hooks. The tackle tray will be wrapped in cardboard and placed inside a pocket inside the fishing kit bag, which will be sealed with a cable tie to discourage students from opening their kits until they are with a parent or carer.

The **Victorian Fisheries Authority** will create a **Little Angler Hub** on their website. It will have useful information, instructional videos and online resources about where and how to fish linking to existing resources from **Fishcare** and new resources to be produced just for the Little Angler Kits program.



### Social Media and Age Appropriate Viewing Habits

Please be mindful during the summer break of healthy viewing habits for your children. A growing number of students are accessing platforms and content that is well beyond their capacity for understanding. Children move through developmental stages where their brains become better equipped to interpret themes in the broader world. The Australian rating system is based on these milestones and are a good guide for what your children should be exposed to. With the holidays approaching and screen time on the rise, your cooperation in ensuring your child is viewing age appropriate content is appreciated.

### Reading

The best way to improve academic outcomes for your child is to make sure they **continue to develop a love of reading over the holidays. If they can read daily, it gives them a distinct advantage over their peers in the long run.** Bed time is a great time to curl up with a good book and a great habit to get into. We also know that students who do not read over the holidays will go backwards in terms of their academic progress, so it really pays to read, read, read!



### Permission To Teach



Mr Crotti and I would like to congratulate and thank both **Poleen Moshi** and **Nikita Magriplis** for their work at Thomastown West Primary School during 2023. Since being granted *permission to teach* they have both embraced a steep learning curve and demonstrated a commitment to student wellbeing, learning and their own professional growth! Ladies, your contributions have not only enriched our classrooms but also established you both as valued members of the TWPS team.

We hope that your experience at TWPS has been fulfilling and rewarding, providing valuable insights into the teaching profession. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Please know that you will always be a part of the TWPS family, and our doors are open should you ever wish to return.

**Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr James Crotti who will continue in his Assistant Principal role next year.**

I have lost count of the number of times during the year he has proven why he was the successful applicant since we interviewed him in 2022. Mr Crotti has risen to every challenge he has faced this year (especially while I have been unwell this term) with a growth mindset, integrity, determination and resilience. James, your hard work and leadership have been commendable and inspiring! Well done!

**Education is Powerful, Student Voice and Agency Matter, Our Teachers Make a Significant Difference & Every Day of Learning Counts!**

**Wishing you all a very happy, safe, restful holiday season!**



Sandi Young  
Principal

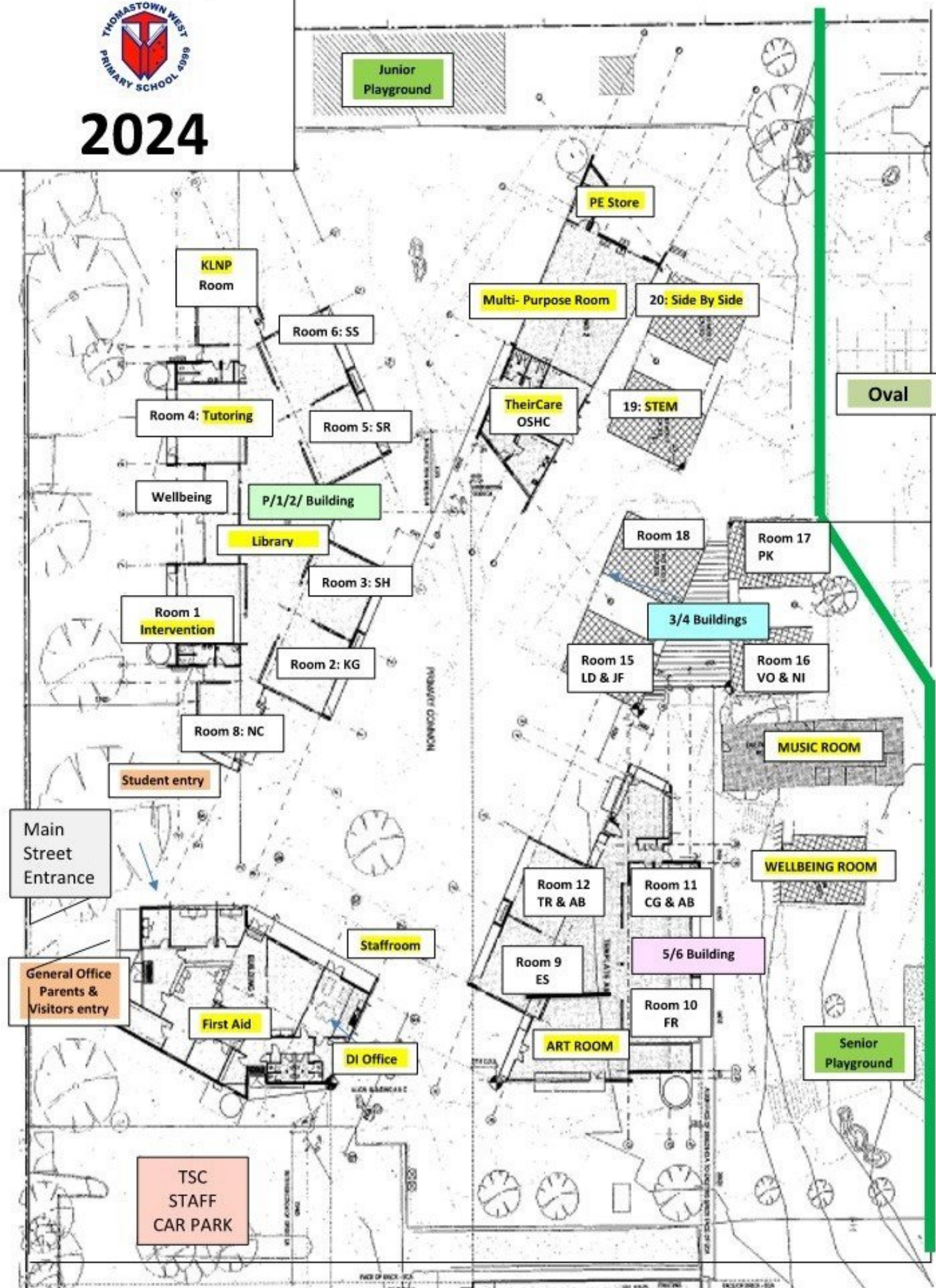


James Crotti  
Assistant Principal





# 2024





# Building resilience in children

Resilience ... it's a familiar word, isn't it? But what does it really mean?

When we talk about resilience, we're talking about a child's ability to cope with ups and downs, and bounce back from the challenges they experience during childhood – for example moving home, changing schools, studying for an exam or dealing with the death of a loved one. Building resilience helps children not only to deal with current difficulties that are a part of everyday life, but also to develop the basic skills and habits that will help them deal with challenges later in life, during adolescence and adulthood.

Resilience is important for children's mental health. Children with greater resilience are better able to manage stress, which is a common response to difficult events. Stress is a risk factor for mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, if the level of stress is severe or ongoing.

## So where does resilience come from?

Resilience is shaped partly by the individual characteristics we are born with (our genes, temperament and personality) and partly by the environment we grow up in — our family, community and the broader society. While there are some things we can't change, such as our biological makeup, there are many things we can change.

One way of explaining the concept of resilience is to imagine a plane encountering turbulence mid-flight. The turbulence, or poor weather, represents adversity. Different planes will respond to poor weather conditions in different ways, in the same way different children respond to the same adversity in different ways.

The ability of the plane to get through the poor weather and reach its destination depends on:



- **the pilot** (the child)
- **the co-pilot** (the child's family, friends, teachers and health professionals)
- **the type of plane** (the child's individual characteristics such as age and temperament)
- **the equipment available** to the pilot, co-pilots and ground crew
- **the severity** and duration of the poor weather.

We can all help children become more resilient and the good news is, you don't have to do it alone. You can ask other adults such as carers and grandparents to help. Building children's resilience is everyone's business, and it's never too early or too late to get started. We've got some simple things that you can do in your own home.

# How can I build resilience in my child?

Our **latest research** found that there are five areas that offer the best chance for building resilience in children.



As a parent, carer, or significant adult, you can help to develop essential skills, habits and attitudes for building resilience at home by helping your child to:

- build good relationships with others including adults and peers
- build their independence
- learn to identify, express and manage their emotions
- build their confidence by taking on personal challenges

There are some simple things you can do to build your child's resilience in these areas (click on the links above). You might be able to think of more.

<https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/healthy-homes/building-resilience>

It's important to remember that the strategies we recommend:

- are suitable for everyday use with children aged 0–12 years
- have been tailored for pre-school aged children (1–5 years) and primary school aged children (6–12 years)
- should be prioritised in a way that best meets your child's needs.

If your child is currently experiencing stress, challenges or hardships in life which are affecting their wellbeing, additional **professional support** may be necessary.





# Friendly Reminder

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thomastown West Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Thomastown West Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that 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 all 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.

Within our school this support has allowed us to provide a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences; enhanced digital learning opportunities; faster WIFI and internet and the recent upgrade of our indoor learning spaces and outdoor areas.

**Educational items for students to own are no longer purchased from TWPS. A list of items that the school recommends you purchase from a *third-party provider*, such as Officeworks or MAXIM for your child to individually own and use** is provided on page 7. Information about the Maxim Online Portal is included on page 5 and 6. Please note, from 2023 MAXIM will only sell the complete educational items pack, as a whole pack. **Or you may choose to bring the recommended educational items from home and/or choose to purchase the educational items you require from another store.**

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview on page 4.

We genuinely value your contributions in supporting our school's programs and resources.

Yours sincerely,

**Paul Johanson**

School Council President

**Sandi Young**

Principal

**Suzi Ilic**

Business Manager

Address: 98-112 Main Street, Thomastown, 3074

Telephone: (03) 9465 4317

Email: [thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

## Financial Support for Families

Thomastown West 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)
- Flexible Payment Arrangements
- Smith Family Scholarships
- State Schools Relief vouchers

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, phone 03 9465 4317 to make an appointment with:

Sandi Young, Principal  
[sandi.young@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:sandi.young@education.vic.gov.au)

and/or

Suzi Ilic, Business Manager  
[suzi.ilic@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:suzi.ilic@education.vic.gov.au)

## Payment methods

Payments can be made by direct debit to our school account, EFTPOS in the office (Visa and Mastercard accepted), or cash directly to the office.

**To enable us to have classroom supplies ready to start the school year, you may choose to make your School Contribution this year:**

- ✓ Monday – Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm during Term 4 (October, November, December 2023)

**Or School Contribution contributions can be made by parents and carers in the first weeks of Term 1, 2024:**

- ✓ Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January or Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January (Curriculum Days) 8:30am - 4:00pm
- ✓ Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm
- ✓ Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm

**Educational items for the students to own (Page 7):** Parents and carers may choose to purchase their child's Educational items elsewhere **or to ensure your MAXIM orders and delivery is ready for the first week of school**, orders are placed via the online portal **this year**. Choose the time below that suits you best:

**DO NOT MISS OUT!**

**The MAXIM portal for ordering will close from 18/12/23.**

- ✓ **Before 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023:** please note the MAXIM portal for ordering TWPS Education items will close and not take orders from 18/12/23.

## 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 Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.

Address: 98-112 Main Street, Thomastown, 3074

Telephone: (03) 9465 4317

Email: [thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au)



# 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 standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- 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

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

#### Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

#### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

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.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for supporting Thomastown West PS with the online portal. We have partnered with Maxim Office Group to ensure a seamless school start for 2024. Packs will be delivered to the school for collection.

**If you have any questions, please call Maxim on 1800 25 35 35 and press OPTION 1.**

### IMPORTANT:

- ✓ To ensure delivery is on time, ready for the first week at school orders must be placed this year:
- ✓ **Before 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023:** Each 'EARLY BIRD' family who submits their online MAXIM order before 10/11/23 will receive a raffle ticket for each child enrolled at TWPS, for the chance to **win** UNIFORM SHOP VOUCHERS.
- ✓ **Before 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023:** Each family who submits their online MAXIM order before 24/11/23 will receive a raffle ticket from TWPS for a chance to win each child enrolled at TWPS in the family to **win** a FREE LUNCH!
- ✓ **Before 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023:** please note the MAXIM portal for ordering TWPS Education items will close and not take orders from 18/12/23.

### ONLINE ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please follow this link: <http://www.maxim.booklists.com.au>

Enter your school code  Go

Select a year level

**Thomastown West Primary School**

Many thanks for supporting Thomastown West Primary School, with the online portal. We have partnered with Maxim Office Group to ensure a seamless school start for 2022. Packs will be delivered direct to the school for collection on the first day back.

If you have any questions, please call the school office on 03 9465 4317.

2. Your access code is: **TWPS2024**  
*\*Please note this is capital sensitive. Please enter code as displayed in screen.*
3. Select the year level required for order
4. Please ensure that the students' name, your name and contact details are given and correct



5. Select 'Place order'

Your Details		
*Student's First Name:	*Student's Last Name:	*Phone:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
*Parent's First Name:	*Parent's Last Name:	*Email address:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
*Confirm Email address:		
<input type="text"/>		
* Denotes a required field		

Place order



6. If purchasing more than one booklist, please select 'Add another booklist' and follow the same procedure from step 3
7. Select 'Proceed to payment options'
8. Your total payment amount required will display on screen
9. Select 'Pay Now'
10. Please choose your check-out option – Credit/ Direct Debit available. Ensure payment details are correctly entered
11. You will receive a payment receipt and an order confirmation to the email address you provide.
12. Your child's pack/s will be delivered to Thomastown West Primary School **ready for learning**.

## TWPS Student Representative Council Report

On 7th December, the Thomastown West Primary School SRC held a an Out of Uniform Day to raise funds. We successfully raised \$203.50 which was donated to the **Save the Children's' Fund**. A big thankyou to all the children and the families of Thomastown West who donated a gold coin on this day. At TWPS we are pleased to have a generous community that's eager to assist suffering children around the world, and everyone had a fun and enjoyable day with their peers, dressed in their casual clothes.

*Salah*





# 2023 TWPS Band



## OUR UNIFORM SHOP

**UNIFORM  
SHOP OPEN**

Beleza Thomastown onsite campus will be open  
January 23rd to January 25th 2024.

10am — 3pm.

**[www.beleza.com.au](http://www.beleza.com.au)**





**TheirCare**  
where Kids love to be!

**Thomastown West Primary School**

Times 7:00 am - 6:15 pm

Location 98 - 112 Main Street, THOMASTOWN VIC 3074

Call 0400 440 722



**With the maximum CHILD CARE SUBSIDY. \*\*Without the CHILD CARE SUBSIDY.**

**Excursion & Super Excursions days: Arrive at the service by 8:00 am. Pick-up after 2:30 pm. Wear uniforms & socks.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>1 JAN</div> <div>NO SERVICE</div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>2 JAN</div> <div>Service closed!</div> <div></div>	<div>3 JAN</div> <div>Service closed!</div> <div></div>	<div>4 JAN</div> <div>Service closed!</div> <div></div>	<div>5 JAN</div> <div>Service closed!</div> <div></div>
<div>6 JAN</div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>7 JAN</div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>8 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Passport to Summer</div> <div></div> <div><p>Pick your bags and fasten your seatbelts! Today, you'll be creating your very own passport to summer to explore all the corners of the earth. Then, challenge your friends in the "Around the World" group game, and express your creativity with the Rainbow Whisking Plate activity. Let's fly away on this summer journey!</p><p><b>From as low as \$8.75*</b> <b>Full fee \$87.50**</b></p></div>	<div>9 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Volley Stars</div> <div></div> <div><p>Set, serve and score your winning shot with an exciting game of Beach Volleyball! Explore the wonders of the USA in a Word Search, and join us in a fun game of Blob Tag, where players link elbows and create growing blobs in a test of strategy and teamwork! It's a slim drink of fun and STEM learning!</p><p><b>From as low as \$10.33*</b> <b>Full fee \$103.29**</b></p></div>	<div>10 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>What the Buzz</div> <div></div> <div><p>Bee busy like a bee! Create your very own Bee House for these important insects! Dive into the rich Indian culture with geometric, Mandala prints, intricate Diya lamp painting, and craft lucky elephants, and create traditional Henna shape designs on your hands!</p><p><b>From as low as \$9.20*</b> <b>Full fee \$92.00**</b></p></div>
<div>11 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Movie Magic</div> <div></div> <div><p>Set in the Kingdom of Rises, where Asha, a sharp-witted, powerful that it's answered by a cosmic force - a ball of soundless energy called Star. They confront the formidable King Magifico to prove that when the will of one courageous human connects with the magic of the stars, wondrous things can happen.</p><p><b>From as low as \$10.33*</b> <b>Full fee \$103.29**</b></p></div>	<div>12 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Bollywood by Storm!</div> <div></div> <div><p>Take a trip to India! It's time for an interactive Bollywood dance experience. Learn the moves, the vibrant rhythms, and melodies of this modern Indian art form. Craft your own paper Indian paper lanterns, and engage in a number of elephant related Indian games and challenges!</p><p><b>From as low as \$9.50*</b> <b>Full fee \$95.00**</b></p></div>			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>15 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Bubble - O - Fun</div> <div></div> <div><p>Don't burst your bubble! Nurture your creativity, innovation, and imagination with our special STEM Bubble Machines! But that's not all... Dive into a realm of endless fun with activities such as vibrant sidewalk chalk art, create mesmerising bubble paintings, and engage in friendly competitions with sponge loss games!</p><p><b>From as low as \$9.20*</b> <b>Full fee \$92.00**</b></p></div>	<div>16 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Everyday Heroes</div> <div></div> <div><p>Firefighter for a day! Navigate the firefighter course, whilst working together and communicating to reach your end goal. The firefighter theme continues with recycled fire engine group craft, climbing firefighter STEM activity, badge tag and balloon team's group games!</p><p><b>From as low as \$9.50*</b> <b>Full fee \$95.00**</b></p></div>	<div>17 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Super JumpSide</div> <div></div> <div><p>Feel the adrenaline rush as TheirCare takes over JumpSide's Ninja Park Bounce and dive as you take on the Ninja Course and trampolines. Then jump into crafting your very own Super Warrior Origami, Cherry Blossom Tree and Konobon Flying Carp. Then it's time to play some super fun group games, like Blended Ninja and Dragon Nest!</p><p><b>From as low as \$11.68*</b> <b>Full fee \$116.84**</b></p></div>	<div>18 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Ancient Egypt</div> <div></div> <div><p>Step back in time to the land of pharaohs and pyramids with our Ancient Egyptian adventure! Build magnificent pyramind sand art, create Egyptian clay catouches, and craft papyrus paper. Dress up in Egyptian costumes, complete with a Cleopatra necklace and Pharaoh headpiece. Then, play a strategic game of Forbidden Desert!</p><p><b>From as low as \$8.75*</b> <b>Full fee \$87.50**</b></p></div>	<div>19 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Zoo Explorers</div> <div></div> <div><p>Embark on an wild journey to Werribee Zoo! Get up close with friendly animals and learn all about these fascinating creatures. But that's not all... Engage in the Photo Group Game, create a Paper Plate Woggle Patch, and experiment with the Salt Crystal Feathers STEM activity. It's a day filled with hands-on learning and fun.</p><p><b>From as low as \$10.33*</b> <b>Full fee \$103.29**</b></p></div>
<div>20 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Scottish Charm</div> <div></div> <div><p>Ohh yes! Experience the charm of Scotland with an array of engaging activities! Engage in a fun game of Scottish Games, craft Loch Ness Monsters from Playdough, create your very own Bonnie Bagpipes from paper bags, and recycled gift wrap rolls. Dive into Irish Paper Weaving and Loch Ness Monster Puppets.</p><p><b>From as low as \$8.75*</b> <b>Full fee \$87.50**</b></p></div>	<div>21 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Spray Dye Panda</div> <div></div> <div><p>All hail today we celebrate the wonder of China. You'll get to create and take home your own Tie Dye Panda! We'll get crafty with Tamarac Clay Warriors and Panda bookmarks. Let's construct our very own Great Wall of China! Then it's game time with two trusted favourites, Red Rover and the Streets, Alps and Lamp Puppets.</p><p><b>From as low as \$9.20*</b> <b>Full fee \$92.00**</b></p></div>	<div>22 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Mexican Fiesta</div> <div></div> <div><p>Hail! Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Mexico with a fiesta celebration! Enjoy a fun filled day with activities like Fiesta de Sabor and Mexican Kick Ball! Unleash your creativity with your very own Mexican sombrero and Fiestazo craft activities. Then savour the day and making your very own DIY Nachos!</p><p><b>From as low as \$8.75*</b> <b>Full fee \$87.50**</b></p></div>	<div>23 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Vertical Ventures</div> <div></div> <div><p>Get ready to scale new heights with a thrilling rock climbing adventure! Challenge your limits and conquer the rugged terrain. But that's not all the fun we have in store! Charcoal your creativity with the Alpine Helix Craft, test your agility in the Marco Polo group game, and join in on an interactive group game of Frozen Tag.</p><p><b>From as low as \$10.33*</b> <b>Full fee \$103.29**</b></p></div>	<div>24 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>25 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>26 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>27 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>28 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>	<div>29 JAN</div> <div></div> <div>Public Holiday!</div> <div></div>



# Holiday Program Important Information!

## What to bring

- ☐ A healthy morning tea and lunch
- ☐ A labelled drink bottle for water
- ☐ Suitable clothing for an active day – closed toe shoes and jacket if wet/cold
- ☐ SunSmart hat for Spring and Summer holidays
- ☐ Medical Management Plan & Medication if applicable – see below for details

## Don't forget!

- ☐ Keep your lunchbox nut-free to keep everyone safe
- ☐ Do not include food items that need to be reheated
- ☐ Label all items with child's name!
- ☐ Bus departure and arrival times are indicative only. For an accurate estimated time of arrival and departure please contact your service directly.

## Personal belongings

Electronic devices, money and other valuables should be left at home.

If brought to the service, these items remain the responsibility of the family. TheirCare does not accept responsibility for loss or damage.

## TheirCare provides

- ☒ Breakfast and afternoon tea snack
- ☒ Sunscreen
- ☒ Water to refill bottles

## Child Care Subsidy

Please note that subsidised hours are calculated and allocated by Centrelink on a fortnightly basis. Check Centrelink for eligibility. Each session is calculated using the full service operational hours, not the hours attended by the child.

## Unexpected changes to activities

In the unlikely event that an activity is unable to run, an alternative activity will be provided.

Activities and times are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as severe weather or provider availability. If an alternative cannot be sourced we will update your invoice to reflect this.

## Serious stuff! Medical Management Plan & Medication

All children who have been diagnosed with a medical condition including allergies, food/chemical intolerances, anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy will need to provide:

- ☐ a completed Medical Management Plan with a colour photo
- ☐ necessary medication

Please note it is a legal requirement under the Education & Care National Regulations and the Terms and Conditions for booking that these are provided.

In the interests of child safety, care may be refused on the day should the appropriate documentation or medication or medication not be supplied.

## Changes to your booking

Simply log into your account anytime to make the relevant changes or call us between 8:30am – 9:00pm weekdays on 1300 072 410.

## Fees for changes to your booking

More than 5 days	Less than 5 days*	On the day	Full Fee
No Charge	\$10.00		

\*Less than 5 days from the start of the booking (120 hours from the start of the session).

When making additional bookings, the \$10.00 fee is eligible for the Child Care Subsidy, which means you may only need to pay the gap, depending on your families' circumstances.

If you have any questions, please speak with one of our friendly Educators or call Customer Support on 1300 072 410.



where kids love to be!

# SUMMER

## Summer Holiday Program

**STEM Bubbles**

**Cultural Drumming**

**Splashtacular**

**Movie Time**

**The place to be these holidays!**

**Book now at [theircare.com.au](http://theircare.com.au)**

**Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy**





**TheirCare**  
Where Kids love to be!

Thomastown West Primary School

Newsletter – December 2023

**Where kids love to be!**

### **TheirCare's Values:**

**Welcome to TheirCare!** We pride ourselves in providing children with the opportunity to learn and grow in a fun filled environment, where children can thrive to be their true, authentic selves! Surrounded by devoted educators, Children are guided to learn through a play-based experience within a safe and nurturing environment.

#### **Acknowledgement of Country:**

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the land in which we live, learn, work and play. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the original custodians of the lands in which Thomastown West Primary School is located.



### **Meet our Coordinator!**

Hi, I am Courtney! I am 24 years old, and I am currently completing my Bachelor of Teaching (Primary and High School). I am new to the TheirCare company and so far, I am really enjoying my time here!



### **Meet our Responsible Person!**

Hi, I am Nicole! I am currently in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of studies at university, undergoing a Bachelor of Education (Primary). I have been working with TheirCare for almost 2 years and I am loving every minute of it!



**Our Area Manager is James.**



### **Week 8-9: All Things Christmas**

During Christmas week, our class immersed itself in festive creativity, crafting ornaments and snowflakes that



adorned our school with holiday cheer. The spirit of giving flourished as we exchanged thoughtful gifts, strengthening the bonds among classmates. The pinnacle of our celebrations is the end-of-year party coming up, which will be marked by laughter, music, and delicious treats. This joyous occasion will allow us to reflect on our achievements and conclude the academic year with shared memories. The blend of artistic expression,

generosity, and camaraderie made our Christmas week a heartwarming and memorable experience for all.



***MENU: We offer fresh seasonal fruits and veggies every day!***

*Additionally, our afternoon tea for next week will comprise of:*

Philly Saladas  
Pizza  
Tacos  
Fruit Spread  
Savoury Platters

If you need any support registering, we are more than happy to lend you a hand!

We always welcome and encourage your input so please reach out to our service phone number on 0400 440 722 if you have any feedback, suggestions or ideas to ensure we provide the best care.



**TheirCare**  
Where Kids love to be!

**@ TWPS**

**Where kids love to be!**



**TheirCare**  
Where Kids love to be!

## **BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

**Bookings for Term 4 at Thomastown West Primary School TheirCare are now open for families to access.**

**Registration and bookings are completed online at [www.theircare.com.au](http://www.theircare.com.au) and usually takes approx. 15 to 20 minutes to complete.**

**Want to know more  
about TheirCare?  
Scan the code on your  
mobile to watch  
our introduction video!**



**FAQs can be located on our website:  
<https://theircare.com.au/how-to-register/>**





# ENROL FOR PREP 2024

## DO NOT MISS OUT!

TOGETHER WORKING ON PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Thomastown West Primary School provides comprehensive, child centred, educational programs in all of the key learning areas:

- Exemplary Literacy Program
- Oral Language Program
- Engaging/Challenging Numeracy Program
- Digital Technologies
- Outstanding Visual Arts Program
- Music and Instrumental Tuition
- An Investigative Science Program (STEM)
- Encouraging Physical Education Program

### Support Programs:

- Perceptual Motor Program
- Student Welfare and Support
- Literacy Intervention
- Koorie Literacy and Numeracy Program
- Choir and School Band
- Whole School Buddies Program
- Before and After School Care
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Program

### FOR MORE INFO

- 📞 9465 4317
- ✉ [thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au)
- 📍 98-112 Main St, Thomastown, 3074



**RESILIENCE RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT EMPATHY**  
**STRIVE TO BE OUR BEST**

# Get your Halal Fresh Food Box

Thomastown Neighbourhood House is working with Project Us Foundation to bring their HALAL FRESH FOOD BOX Food Relief Project to Thomastown. Scan the QR code to sign up for a Halal Fresh Food Box comprising of fresh halal poultry and vegetable samples on a fortnightly basis (Wednesdays). The Thomastown pick up point is TRAC outdoor Area, 52 Main St, Thomastown.

Up and coming distributions to Thomastown will take place on:

Wednesday 29th Nov 10.30am- 12pm

Wednesday 13th Dec 10.30am- 12pm


Wednesday 27th Dec 10.30am- 12pm

Wednesday 24th January 10.30am- 12.30pm

## HALAL FRESH FOOD BOX REQUEST FORM

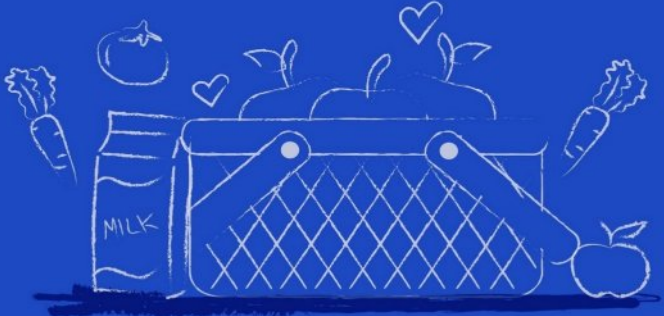
Click on the following link or the QR code below:


[https://  
www.projectusfoundation.org/  
community](https://www.projectusfoundation.org/community)



Project Us  
Foundation

# GET YOUR Halal Fresh Food Box





We know times are hard and the price of everything has risen. For some of us, it's becoming harder to provide fresh, nutritious food for our families. **We're here for you.**

Scan the QR code to sign up Halal Fresh Food Box comprising of fresh halal poultry and vegetable staples on a monthly basis at a centre near you. One of our team members will be in touch with you shortly.

Lv 11, 2 Queen St, Melb VIC, 3000 | (03) 9917 7521 | [projectusfoundation.org](https://www.projectusfoundation.org)



## HOW TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

1. **Contact Us:** Reach out to us at (03) 9917 7521 or email us at support@projectusfoundation.org or visit our website at www.projectusfoundation.org
2. **Assessment:** Our team will conduct a brief assessment to understand your specific needs and preferences.
3. **Matching:** Based on your needs, we'll match you with appropriate services and resources.
4. **Engagement:** Subscribe to our newsletter to engage in our programs, workshops, and services to receive ongoing support.
5. **Feedback:** We value your feedback to continuously improve our services and meet your needs.
6. **Hubs:** Visit our distribution centres to pick up your fresh food box.

## DO YOU NEED HELP?



P: (03) 9917 7521

E: support@projectusfoundation.org

www.projectusfoundation.org

We know how hard times can get, we are here for you!

If you would like to access our programs including the food relief service please call us at (03) 9917 7521 or email us at support@projectusfoundation.org.

*Note: service is only available in Melbourne*

**We have a 100% donation policy**

We distribute 100% your donations to those in need

## PROJECT US FOUNDATION IS ABOUT COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO EMPOWER US, PROTECT US, AND HONOUR US.

Project Us Foundation is an Australian Not-For-Profit creating positive economic and social impact in the lives of Muslims in need via community, children and elderly programs in Australia and overseas.

All donations are tax deductible. Our 100% donation policy means all donations are used towards the giving initiatives allowing for maximum outcome.

Beyond the programs we deliver, we want to live by our Islamic values and create positive and long term economic and social change for our community and leave the world in better state than what we found it in.



Lv 11, 2 Queen St, Melb VIC, 3000

(03) 9917 7521

projectusfoundation.org

