

Whitchurch Primary School

Whitchurch Road

Tavistock PL19 9SR

13th July 2017

Dear Parents

I have grave concerns over the funding for our school and the impact this is having on the quality of education for our child.

Across Devon and indeed England there are similar concerns being experienced by Headteachers, Governors and Parents. This is a national problem.

The Government is imposing real term funding cuts on schools by freezing the amount of money that is allocated to schools for each pupil at the school. The contributions that each school has to make towards their employees pensions and national insurance have risen significantly. This affects all schools, both primary and secondary whilst the amount of money coming into schools from government has remained static, the amount going out on expenditure due to government imposed changes has risen considerably.

The Shortfall in the budget will have a significant impact in school from September. For example, there will be less teaching assistant support in each class. This impacts on every child in the school.

Schools across the country are funded differently and have been for many years. Generally, schools in rural areas are funded at a lower level than those in cities. When I was a head in Plymouth I had a significantly better budget than I have at Whitchurch. The Government is attempting to address the differences and introduce a new National Funding Formula. Presently it looks as if this will not make a difference to our budget.

The Governors and I feel we need to address the ongoing financial difficulties in a proactive way and let you know how we are addressing the shortfall in funding and what you can do to support the school at this difficult time so that our children continue to get an excellent education.

What are Governors and Staff doing to support the school

- Continue to find ways of reducing costs eg recycling more waste, shopping around for best value
- We have set up a Whitchurch Finance Task, made up of governors, parents and staff to explore new ways of generating money and savings.
- Staff have come up with ways of working more effectively eg covering classes internally rather than paying for supply staff, reducing use of photocopying

- Working with other local groups of schools to share expertise, resources and training to reduce costs eg we buy in literacy and numeracy training as a group.
- Apply for more grants; currently we have applications in with The National Lottery, EMI and Foyles.

What can parents do to help support the school

- Use the School APP – this a much cheaper option to the school than texting – the texting service costs the school £1000 per year.
- Volunteer – we have 20 volunteers but we need more – please sign up – you need to commit to one afternoon per week if possible.
- Write to our local MP, Geoffrey Cox at:-
Geoffrey Cox QC MP, First Floor, Lockyer House, Paddons Row, Tavistock PL19 0HF
Email him at:- tellgeoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk
Telephone:- 01822 612925
- Support the WSA – target is to raise £5000 this year – the next meeting is on the 20th September 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Whitchurch Inn.
- When purchasing online buy through easy fundraising – letters went home to parents on the 9th February. If you go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchprimaryschool> You can sign up for free. If you then go to My Account, extra ways to raise money, you can click on the donation reminder. Once you are on the site you can enter any shop online and have the same choices you would normally have – ideal for travel, rail tickets, books etc.
- Volunteer to be part of a maintenance team. We are planning on having one Saturday a term where parents turn up and we have a list of jobs available ie painting the toilets, putting up shelves etc – please sign up.

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REPLY SLIP

Option	Tick box
I would like to volunteer to help out in school and can offer one afternoon per week	
I would like to be part of the maintenance team and offer my services for 1 Saturday per term	

Name