



EVINGTON VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caring and Learning Together

5th April 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

School Funding

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The senior leadership team and Governors at Evington Valley have been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made including the need to undertake a staffing structure review.

This decision needed to be taken due to the budget allocation for the financial year 2017/18 not being in line with the increased staffing costs. The review has resulted in a number of changes that include; the Deputy Headteacher having a class responsibility from September, a reduction in hours for the part time Premises Officer and the IT Technician from 24th April 2017 and, most significantly, a loss of 123.75 Teaching Assistant hours also from 24th April 2017. This will undoubtedly affect the provision we can offer the pupils in our school, as reduced Teaching Assistant hours will result in fewer interventions for target pupils and a significant reduction in support for the class teachers. However, I would like to reassure you that we are working very hard to establish new ways of working that will ensure the changes have a minimum impact on standards.

Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. The National Audit Office estimate a £3 billion real terms cut across all phases and in all schools. This doesn't just affect us.

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However with increasing costs placed onto all schools the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see. The School Cuts website, analysing DfE data, projects that schools in our local authority will lose £15,570,086 in total.

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible. However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.

Please be assured that we will take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. We are also letting the local authority and government know just how serious the funding crisis has become.

We will continue to keep you informed about funding changes if our budget means we will have to take any further significant decisions on staffing or activities.

Yours sincerely,

Hameeda Sidat
Chair of Governors

Jill Griffin
Headteacher

On behalf of the Governing Body at Evington Valley Primary School

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