



Long Sutton Church of England (VC) Primary School

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25th January 2019

School Fund

Dear Parents,

Following our letter last term, we are now launching our new School Fund. The delay in setting this up has been related to the process of registering for Gift Aid, plus the need to set up a separate bank account for donations.

Our previous letter outlined our rationale behind choosing to set up a School Fund for voluntary contributions to support the school, which was not a decision made lightly by the Governing Body. A copy of the full original letter can be found on the school website, however we thought it would be helpful to remind you of the factors which are contributing to a squeeze on the funding of our school, as a result of a significant decrease in our operational budget:

- Limited or no inflationary increases in funding to existing schools set against the necessary staff pay rises to allow for inflation – staff costs are over 80% of our total budget and pay levels are fixed at national and county level so are out of our direct control.
- Changes in the National Funding Formula set by the government and the formula used by Hampshire County Council. Whilst the decrease in the fixed sum given to schools has been compensated by an increase in the amount per pupil, the Formula used by Hampshire benefits schools with over 200 pupils but results in decreased funding to smaller schools like ours.
- Additional demands on school budgets, including increased charges for services provided by HCC and new costs for pensions and the apprenticeship levy.
- A decrease in the birth rate a few years ago has led to fewer new pupils coming to the school, the effect of which is compounded by a bigger proportion of the school budget being driven by the number of pupils on roll.

We remain committed to sustaining our relatively small class sizes, in contrast to some schools, which are now running classes of up to 36 children. This means that an increasing proportion of our delegated budget is allocated to staffing costs and we have had to make cut backs in our spending on additional resources and equipment. This is where we hope the School Fund will help.

How will the School Fund work?

The School Fund is a Voluntary Parental Contributions scheme, to help us continue to deliver a high quality education for all our children; many schools already run similar schemes and have been doing for some time. The voluntary funds will be used to supplement the activities of the school, for example by augmenting our resources and equipment. We want to be transparent with how we are using this additional money and will give parents termly updates via the newsletter on some of the ways in which the donations have been used. We are hoping to use the funds for things such as:

- replacing and improving equipment e.g. stop watches, musical instruments, PE equipment, maps
- playground equipment for children to use during breaktimes (for example, we would love to install some new netball / basketball hoops on the walls)
- 'consumable' resources e.g. art & DT materials, subscriptions to websites which enhance learning e.g. Times Table Rockstars / My Maths / rising stars e-books / online handwriting resources

- additional teaching resources for topic work e.g. hiring / purchasing historical or religious artefacts
- reading books to keep our reading scheme and class libraries and book loans up to date and engaging

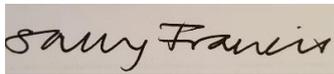
We are suggesting a voluntary contribution of £10 per family per month, however we are aware that some families may wish to give more, and that some of you may not be in a position to offer a donation. Please be assured that the scheme is genuinely voluntary and that all contributions will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

We have set up a dedicated bank account for the School Fund, the details for which are provided below. Your donation is worth 25% more to the School Fund if you make a Gift Aid declaration. You can make your donation by:

- a one off bank transfer
- a regular standing order (monthly / quarterly / annually) a cheque

If you are in a position to support this scheme and choose to go ahead, we would like to extend our thanks to you. If you have any comments or questions, please contact either one of us via the school office.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. Sally Francis

Mrs. Hannah Inglis

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

On Behalf of the Full Governing Body