

Hollyfield Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer

School Funding Changes

You may have seen or read about the on-going situation with school funding on the news recently. The Head Teachers in Sutton Coldfield are worried about the implications for the children in our local area and have agreed to send this letter from all schools to update you on how these issues impact upon our school.

For many years, schools around the country have been funded at different levels. This has resulted in some schools receiving more money and some schools receiving less money. Therefore, the Government is planning a move towards a national Funding Formula (NFF) which means that funds are spread evenly regardless of where your school is based in the country. Whilst we agree that this is a fairer way to fund schools, what is clear is that the Government does not have enough money in the system for this to happen without many schools losing out.

In addition to changes being made to the way funding is allocated to schools there are many other pressures facing our school budget at this time. National Insurance and Pension contributions are going up meaning we will have to spend more on staff costs. Just like at home, our bills for things like utilities and other goods and services that we buy, are also going up. Our budget however, is not going up at the same rate as the things we need to buy which is putting a strain on our finances.

Also, the Government is imposing a tax on organisations from April 2017 potentially requiring us to pay a percentage of our budget back into a pot known as the 'Apprenticeship Levy'. This amounts to 0.5% of our budget which may not sound a lot but further adds to the pressure we are facing in 2017.

Finally, the Local Authority is providing far fewer services to schools that they once did because they too have been affected by large Government funding cuts. This means our school now has to pay for these services ourselves but the Government has not provided any additional funding to recognise this added burden.

These cutbacks and additional cost obligations all add up and will result in a predicted reduction in our budget of £179,269 by 2019/20. To put this in some kind of perspective that's the equivalent of 4 fewer teachers. It is also important to highlight that schools are already operating in a significantly more challenging financial position than we were prior to the economic crash in 2008.



I appreciate that these issues are very complicated and there is a lot of information to take in. However, I wanted to share with you the huge levels of cuts as fully as I can so that you begin to understand why things will inevitably have to change as a result of this. I appreciate that this is an unsettling time for everyone as there is a lot of anxiety about what this means for our staff and children so I give you my firm commitment to communicate with you all as frequently as I can regarding this matter.

I will of course be working with governors to ensure we do whatever we can to limit the worst effects of the cuts and will also be lobbying our local MP so that they are aware of the negative impact such cuts will have on our school. I would also encourage you to get in touch with your local MP to ask them what they are doing to protect schools in the area and also sign the petition which has been set up online at www.schoolcuts.org.uk

In addition, a new national parent-led campaign - *The Fair Funding for All Schools* - has been set up to get parents empowered and organised around the issue of school funding cuts. The campaign is calling on the government to:

- Protect pupil funding in real terms over the life of this parliament
- Ensure no school loses funding as a direct result of the implementation of the National Funding Formula

You can find out more about their campaign at www.fairfundingforallschools.org

I am sorry if this letter makes for some difficult reading, however I feel it is important to let you know of the changes we are facing at the school with regards to funding so that you can better understand what is happening. I am of course available to talk to you about this matter if you would find that helpful.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Lewis
Head Teacher



Gill Shilton
Chair of Governors