

31st March 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

On behalf of 53 West Berkshire Headteachers

School Funding

You may have seen a number of stories in the press over recent weeks and months about school funding. There have been some worrying headlines and we felt it important to let you know how schools are being affected and the likely impact of further proposed changes.

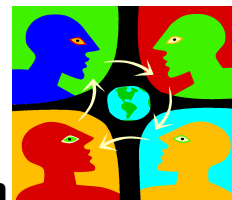
School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. Senior leadership teams at many schools have been faced with funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made at some schools. In time, it will affect more and more schools.

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. Expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP has fallen every year since 2010.

The recent headlines have been caused in particular by a proposed new national funding formula for schools. This is designed to create a fairer allocation across the country. However, with increasing costs placed onto all schools, including higher pension and national insurance contributions, as well as the introduction of the apprenticeship levy, the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see for West Berkshire children.

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 affect teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.

West Berkshire Primary Headteacher's Association



Please be assured that we will take absolute 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. This includes meeting with local MPs, and the Minister for Schools, Nick Gibb MP.

If our budget means we have to make significant and difficult decisions on staffing or activities we will endeavour to let you know within an appropriate timescale.

Yours faithfully,

A Higgs, Bucklebury CE Primary
K Dickens, Welford & Wickham CE & Stockcross CE Primary Schools
R Bowen, Aldermaston CE Primary School
P Field, Basildon CE Primary School
A MacDonald, Beedon CE & Compton CE Primary Schools
S Butcher, Beenham Primary School
J Micklewhite, Birch Copse Primary School
J Slade Nowell, Bradfield CE Primary School
J Patterson, Brightwalton CE Aided Primary School
C Purchase, Brimpton CE Primary School
B Mills, Brookfields School
A Gallagher, Burghfield St. Mary's CE Primary School
J Hewitt, Castle School
F Rostron, Calcot Infant & Junior Schools
M Lea, Chieveley Primary School
S Ball, Cold Ash St. Mark's CE Primary School
P Walsingham, Curridge Primary School
C Prosser, The Downs Federation
S Cantwell, Downsway Primary School
C Morley, Enborne CE Primary School
A Ind, Englefield CE Primary School
L Wood, Falkland Primary School
C Davis, Francis Baily Primary School
E Dawkins, Garland Junior School
K House, The Ilsleys' & Hampstead Norreys CE Primary Schools
P Collicott, Hermitage Primary School
G Heaton, Hungerford Primary School

F Rayner, John Rankin Infant & Junior School
D Devine, Kennet Valley Primary School
M Higgs, Kintbury St. Mary's CE Primary School
R Duke, Lambourn CE Primary School
P Thorne, Long Lane Primary School
N Sumner, Mortimer St. Johns CE Infant School
J MacArthur, Mortimer St. Mary's CE Junior School
C Nesbit, Mrs. Bland's Infant & Nursery School
M Fry, Pangbourne Primary School
D Shave, Parsons Down Infant & Junior Schools
K Fakes, Purley CE Infants School
R Blofeld, Robert Sandilands Primary School & Nursery
V Murray, Shaw-cum-Donnington CE Primary School
B Goodrich, Shefford CE & Chaddleworth St. Andrew's CE Primary Schools
S East, Springfield Primary School
N Butler Broad, Spurcroft Primary School
G Zimmerman, St. John the Evangelist Infant & Nursery School
K Harvey, St. Nicolas CE Junior School
L Roberts, Streatley CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School
K Sawyer, Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet CE VA Primary School
A Webster, Thatcham Park CE Primary School
A Butler, The Willows Primary School
A Hay, The Winchcombe School
C Morley, Theale CE Primary School
B Hunter, Westwood Farm Infant & Junior Schools
A Bingham, Woolhampton CE Primary School