

Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter

21st April 2017

School Funding

You may have seen a number of stories in the press recently about school funding. Several of you have talked to me on the school gate about the information on a website called www.schoolcuts.org.uk. There are two issues about school funding at the moment. The first is the reform of the National Funding Formula (NFF) – this is the ‘per pupil’ amount that schools receive from the government. The current formula is seen as unfair with schools in certain areas of the country receiving significantly more per pupil than others. Bracknell Forest and Wokingham, for example, are among the lowest funded local authorities in England and the proposed reforms would likely mean better per pupil funding. The second – and most significant - issue is increasing costs coupled with ‘cash flat’ budgets and diminishing Local Authority services. Since 2015, school budgets have not been increased to take into account inflation, employer pension and National Insurance contributions or the apprenticeship levy. In addition, cuts to the Education Services Grant (ESG) given to the Local Authority from £77 per pupil to £25 also means we are having to pay more for services such as HR, payroll and IT support. In the 2017-18 financial year these additional costs will equate to an approximate £12,000 - £15,000 cut to our budget.



School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and governing body have been grappling with funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made. This means that, although still very ‘tight’, we are in reasonable shape for this year and able to maintain staffing levels. Going forward, we will continue to work hard to ensure that budget pressures have the least impact on teaching and learning as possible – this will always be our priority - and ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. **You can help us by making (if you can) a voluntary contribution – in part or full – towards class trips and other enrichment activities and by ensuring that your school meals account is in credit (NB. the school is liable for this debt!). Please continue to support PTA events! The money raised through the PTA directly benefits your children and allows us to provide a wide range trips and activities. Finally, if you think that your child may be eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), please speak to the office. This brings additional funding of £1,300 each year.**

Mr G Strudley (Headteacher)

World Book Day Competition

For World Book Day in March, we asked the children to design the front cover and write the blurb for one of their favourite books. We were impressed by the quality of the entries we had and it was very hard to decide the winners and runners-up in each class.



Winner	Runner-up
R Millie Keeble	Cerys Powell
1 Harley Dunn	Abi Smith
2 Anna Waters	Daniel Scott
3 Joe Hart	Patrick Resurreccion
4 Alannah Coates	Emily Haslegrave
5 Chanelle Alipao	James Furzer / Archie Law
6 Olivia Veitch	Alex Cauchi

Our congratulations to all of them – they will receive a certificate in assembly and the winners will also be given a book token. The winning entries will be displayed in school and we will post them on the school website in the news section shortly.

Staffing Update

Miss Rivers will be leaving at the end of the school year to take up a post teaching in Thailand, while our Year 6 TA, Miss Lee, is leaving to go travelling. We will be very sad to see them go, but wish them the best with these exciting opportunities. We are currently advertising for their replacements and we will let you know once we have recruited. We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Monica Leach, who will be retiring after 20+ years of service to the school. We will organise an opportunity for parents and colleague to mark the occasion in July.

After School Clubs

We are currently 3 short of the minimum required for ‘Brickies’ Lego club to go ahead. If you are interested please return the form to the office as soon as possible. We have also spoken to a company called The Creation Station who run after-school clubs and they can do a 4 week course from 19th June to 10th July at £5 per week per person. Each course has different themes and they use different art materials each week, with work being sent home for parents to enjoy. More information to follow.



Year 2 and 6 SATs

Year 6 will sit their end of Key Stage 2 assessments (aka 'SATs') during the week beginning 8th May. They should be incredibly proud of the work they have done and the fantastic attitude they've displayed. They are truly 'reaching for their best' and we all wish them luck. Year 2 are also facing statutory assessments. These are predominantly done by the teacher based on classwork, but they will also sit reading and maths tests later in the month. These are done 'informally' within a normal lesson and are very low key. Although they may be less aware they are being assessed, Year 2 have also been working incredibly hard and should be proud of what they are doing.

Dates for Your Diary

24 Apr 17 - Year 3 School Trip
24 Apr 17 – St. George's Day
25 Apr 17 - Y1 Dress Up Day
01 May 17 – May Bank Holiday (School Closed)
08 May 17 to 12 May 17 - KS2 SATS week
22 May 17 to 26 May 17 – Arts Week
24 May 17 - Year 2 School Trip
29 May 17 to 2 Jun 17 - Half-Term - May/ June
05 Jun 17 - Back to School
13 Jun 17 to 14 Jun 17 - Parent Consultations
14 Jun 17 - Reception - Parent Open Morning
23 Jun 17 - INSET Day 5

(Please keep an eye out for updates via School Comms)



REACHING for our BEST

Respect - Everyone - Achievement - Courage - Helpful & Caring – Individuality - Never Give Up - Go for It!

