

MADLEY BROOK CP SCHOOL

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*Achieving Excellence by
Challenging Boundaries*

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May 5th 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good Easter break. I mentioned in my newsletter update just before Easter that the budget was looking challenging for the next 2-3 year period.

Over the past four years, there has been minimal increase in the funding allocated to our school. The ongoing increases in energy, staffing and maintenance costs (even just inflationary) mean there is less money available to the school.

The biggest negative impact to the school's budget has come from a smaller than expected number of children in the nursery this year. The funding for the nursery is based on an initial estimate of children expected to be part of the nursery, which is then adjusted based on the actual numbers of children attending. As the number of children in the nursery has been lower than the initial estimate, the school has had to pay back funds to the Local Authority.

Overall this means that in the current year there will be a very significant reduction in the surplus that the school needs to maintain in order to cover unexpected costs and that this surplus will be all but lost by the following year.

Governors have discussed options for the nursery and have made additional sessions available to existing families to increase flexibility. We will also be supporting the new 30 hours of free funding that will be introduced in September 2017 by the Government (subject to eligibility requirements). If you know anyone who might be interested in this please see the school website or contact the school office.

However, these changes alone will not be sufficient to resolve the funding gap. Support staff who have left the school in this academic year have not been replaced, in order to make financial savings. It is likely that further reductions in this area will be required next year. On behalf of staff and governors I would like to assure you that every effort will be made to minimise the impact of any such staffing reduction and we remain committed to improving academic standards at the school.

The Governing board has also agreed that there should be a small increase made to the charges for both the after school and breakfast clubs. From the second half of the summer term the cost of after school clubs will increase from £1 to £1.50 per session and breakfast club from £3 to £4. We know that this will have an impact on you and it is not a decision we have taken lightly but we trust that you will understand the need for the governors to be proactive in making these types of decisions in order to address the funding issues which Madley Brook, in common with many other schools, is facing.

It is worth noting that joining the River Learning Trust academy will not have an impact on our budget, either positively or negatively. The reasons for and benefits of joining the Trust are educational rather than financial.



Yours sincerely

Paul Whitehouse

Chair of Governors