



Yenton Primary School



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Acting Headteacher Mr P Smith

14th March 2017

Dear Families,

School Funding

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time, due to rising costs and reducing funds. The senior leadership team at our school has been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made, for example not replacing teachers or teaching assistants who have left our school.

Our school is **not alone**. 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. **This doesn't just affect us.**

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However with increasing costs placed onto all schools, the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see. The School Cuts website (www.schoolcuts.org.uk), analysing Department for Education data, projects that schools in our local authority could potentially lose a significant proportion of their funding, and at our school this may be up to a 12% loss in funding by 2019 (which is the equivalent of £233,089).

We will continue to work hard to ensure that the cuts have the least impact on teaching as 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 impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.

Please be assured that we will take the utmost 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.

We promise to let you know you in plenty of time if our budget means we'll have to take a significant decision on staffing or activities.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Smith
Acting Headteacher

Vicki Popplewell
Chair of Governing Board