

8 February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

As you will be aware, all schools are struggling with the present levels of funding and the pressure of increasing costs coupled with high inflation is having a significant impact on school budgets. Funding per student has been cash flat for many years, meaning we had received no inflationary increase until this year, when we received a one off additional 4.5% which is still below inflation. This means the school has had to absorb cost increases by generating savings which has a significant impact on the running of the school.

In light of the funding issues, we are working on generating income in as many areas as possible and one of these is to request parental contributions to help pay for enrichment resources and activities, for example: cookery ingredients. We would, however, continue to ask for separate voluntary contributions towards expensive enrichment offsite visits. This money will be vital in protecting the education we deliver, as it will protect subject budgets so that lessons have sufficient resources to meet the needs of our students.

For each family, the school is asking for a **voluntary** annual donation of £120. This can be paid either as a one-off annual payment or through regular instalments, e.g. £10 per month or a weekly payment, etc. to suit you, via Arbor, our online payment system. You can contact a member of the finance team if you do not have access to Arbor to set up an account. However, this is only a suggestion and should you feel able to donate more, then you would not be limited to this amount, and equally, we will be grateful for whatever help you are able to give if £120 is too much for your budget.

Instructions for Arbor:

Please log onto the Arbor app, then select 'School Shop'. There are two products for the voluntary donations:

£10-£110

Increase the quantity to choose the quantity you wish to donate. i.e. to donate £20 change the quantity to 2, to donate £100 change the quantity to 10.

£120

Select 1 to donate £120.

Then select 'Buy product' and 'Pay now'

Whilst we will not be recording payments against students' names, we are asking that you complete the form below to acknowledge receipt of this letter. We will chase the return of the form, but not money, in order to ensure that all parents have received and read this letter.

We would also ask if you, as parents, could investigate whether your employer has funds available to support schools and would be grateful for any information in relation to this.

Our priority is the education of the children and, with your help, we will continue to maintain our high standards.

Yours sincerely



Joolz Scarlett
Headteacher

REPLY SLIP: To Joolz Scarlett

Parental contributions

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8 February 2024 concerning parental contributions.

Signed:

Print name:

Student's Name:

Class: Date: