

Highfield Primary School June 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure there can't be many people who haven't seen something on the news in recent weeks about school budgets. With this in mind I would like to share with you some ways in which Highfield, like many other schools in the country, is being affected.

The governing body is fully committed to maintaining our outstanding curriculum. This year's school budget has now been set and ratified. It has been the hardest budget we have ever had to set due to many factors, including cuts in our special needs funding, additional payments such as an apprenticeship levy, and higher employment and utility costs. We predicted the budget would be difficult this year and spoke to staff earlier in the year about our concerns, which of course included avoiding potential redundancies. Several members of staff requested a reduction in their hours. These requests were approved and certainly helped us avoid a deficit budget and potential redundancies. Mrs Garbutt, Mrs Wood, Mrs White and Mrs Wheldale will all be reducing their hours from September.

From September school dinner charges for KS2 children will also be increasing as Leeds City Catering raise their prices. KS2 dinners will cost £2.40 per day. Musical tuition fees will cost £195 for the full year. Parents may pay in termly instalments of £65 but must commit to the full year as the school has to pay for the full year's tuition.

Our wonderful PTA chairperson Kate Coldwell is stepping down at the end of the summer. Kate has led the Friends for the past four years. She has been brilliant in organising and promoting the PTA and we are hoping someone is willing to step into her shoes in September. As you know the Friends raise huge amounts of money for school and, quite frankly, I do not know what we would do without them. The list of requests I put to the Friends just goes on and on as school budgets tighten. They pay for our school based workshops so that we do not have to ask parents for contributions. The Friends are currently raising money to buy new interactive whiteboards for our classrooms.

As mentioned at the start of my letter it is everyone's intention to maintain our vibrant, rich curriculum. Our wonderful range of school trips can only be maintained if parents are able and willing to make the voluntary contribution requested of the. The school budget cannot subsidise nor pay for such trips.

Please be assured that we will continue to strive to maintain our high standards of teaching and learning despite the budgetary pressures we are facing now and potentially in the future.

I look forward to seeing you in the many summer activities taking place next half term. Please remember to check the school diary on the website for dates of trips, sports days and other curriculum events.

Julie Colley