

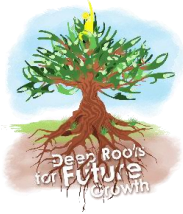
# Oaklands Infant School

Acting Headteacher Miss Ellen Weston BA (Hon) PGCE

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Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you regarding the challenging financial landscape in the education sector. I hope that my letter is received as intended; not to worry you in any way, but to inform so that we can work together as a community to provide our children with the best learning experience and environment possible.

Along with many other schools across the UK, we find ourselves in a difficult financial position at this time. As I am sure you are finding at home, we have also been impacted by the rise in inflation, energy prices and utility bills. Our funded income is currently unable to keep pace with these increasing costs. This has also been affected by recent pay awards which have not been fully funded and may not be in the future. They are instead having to be absorbed in the school's budget.

Over the last few years our pupil numbers have dropped, for reasons such as low birth rates and movement within the local area. Low pupil numbers directly impact the funding we receive. As difficult as it is, cuts are inevitable in the hope of making following years more financially stable.

At Oaklands Infant School we pride ourselves on having full-time support staff in every class, this is becoming quite rare in many schools. Our support staff play a huge and integral part in every child's success, reducing their hours would have a negative impact on our classes and children.

Unfortunately, our school is forecasting a future deficit budget so we are working hard to find ways to fundraise, save money and promote our school to new families.

In previous years we have asked for voluntary contributions to go towards many resources such as Art and DT, reading books, PE equipment etc. However, during the pandemic we made the decision to pause this request.

## How can you help

- We ask for a voluntary contribution of £60 (£20 per year of being at the Infants). We have an Oaklands Infant School Just Giving account, clicking Gift Aid will give us an extra 25%. If you would like to donate please click [here](#). The link is also on our main page of the school website.
- Continue supporting our PTA.
- Look out for and support your child to raise money through events run by Oaklands Infant.
- Pay for school trips.
- Let us know if you have or know anyone with access to 'match funding' or working for a company that would be willing to sponsor us in some way.
- Let us know of any businesses that would like to donate to the school.
- If any friends or relatives ask for school recommendations please do share our information.
- Finally, if you have any fundraising idea please do get in contact with either the PTA or school office.

Your ongoing support is hugely appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Weston  
Acting Headteacher