



Navenby Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr C Elliott NPQH BA (Hons) QTS



3rd July 2024

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you regarding the school budget we have just set for this financial year (April 2024 - March 2025). For the first time since I have been here we have had to submit a deficit budget to the County and so we are having to make some tough financial decisions until the next budget in March 2025. Whilst the deficit budget is not a massive amount and is not something for us to be overly concerned about, it is something Mrs Howard, the Governors and myself are keeping a close eye on over the next 6-9 months so that we quickly get out of this situation.

We have been in a very fortunate position, particularly since covid, where we have been able to maintain the high levels of support we have given the children. This includes supervision at lunchtimes, the number of teaching assistants we have and their hours, the money we have put in from the main budget to supplement the money given to us from County for additional needs and the number of trips we have been able to run to name a few. We knew that we would get to this point one day because of the following:

- The staff here are very experienced and with that comes higher salaries. When the Government say they are giving pay rises to non-teaching staff each year, they do not give us the money to pay them – it has to come from the budget. This clearly has knock on implications.
- We have bolstered the SEN provision for any child that needs intervention and support which goes beyond the funding given by County. This includes: Mrs Kerr's well-being group; Mrs Thornton's and Mrs Boulby's ELSA support, Mrs Pridmore's SENCo time and Miss Peet's ELKLAN training. I am sure you will agree, with these things offered, the children are supported on every level to achieve whilst with us.
- The third element was the low intake we had last year in Reception (20 children as opposed to the admission number of 30). This affects the budget to the tune of £30,000 - £40,000. This is a big hit to take in one year.

Looking ahead, we have 30 children starting in September and so the lost revenue we had last year will be back. We do have a carry forward from last year which we can implement during the year which should ease things unless we have any unforeseen events in school that are going to cost us money (eg flood, lighting problem, main gate malfunction).

My main priority is that we continue to give the children here the best we can: excellent teaching; excellent teaching assistants; excellent resources; excellent trips and experiences. And we will be able to do this but we need a little help from you.

This year I have asked the teachers to only go on one paid trip and to have this costed and booked by the October half term. Parents will be informed of the cost for this trip and it is hoped that parents will pay the cost in full. For those children who are entitled to free school meals, the cost will be 50%. In the past, if there has been any shortfall, the cost to cover the full trip amount has come from the budget and we can no longer do this. Generally, parents are very supportive of the trips but I am hoping by giving lots of notice and only paying for one trip that the full amount each time can be given. Classes can go on other trips if the teacher wishes and some teachers do organise enterprise projects to raise money to cover other things in school. This will still happen to help with costs of any additional trips.



I am grateful to the wonderful FONS Team who organise various events to raise money for the school and they are currently thinking about events for next academic year. All of them are important to raising funds and I hope that you can support their ventures even more so next year because every penny will count. This year, FONS will not be giving their usual £150 donation to each class for trips because we are hoping the cost will be met by you. Instead, we are looking to use that money (and any other money raised in the year) to purchase more inspiring reading books for KS2 children. Maintaining a love of reading and improving reading fluency once children have completed Read, Write Inc and Active English in Year 2, is going to be one of our SDP targets which I will write to you about in September.

I hope this letter does not come across in a negative way but I feel transparency is the best policy for helping resolve a problem. I know with your help and understanding in this matter, this problem will be only for a short time and next March we will be in a better place.

If there is anything regarding the content of this letter you want to talk to me about, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Elliott
Headteacher

