

Bearwood News

FUNDING

- **The reality of our situation**
- **The challenges we are facing**
- **How can you help?**
- **School Council support**
- **Hidden funding we can access**

Funding Crisis at Bearwood Primary and Nursery School

You may have seen in the news recently about the ongoing issue around school budgets. About 7,000 head teachers in England have written to 3.5 million parents saying that schools are facing a "funding crisis".

Unfortunately, financially, things are not so easy to run as they were - we are in a **funding crisis**.

This has prompted me to write to you all and share the reality of our situation, our ideas about moving forward and how you can help.



Financial challenges right here, right now!

Please take time to read this information in order for you to understand our situation, share your expertise, ideas, time and understanding. Thank you from the staff, governors and most importantly your children.

Our School Funding Picture

Our income has reduced over the last few years

Compared to other similar schools our income has decreased further due to a number of factors including uptake of pupil premium funding and demographics.

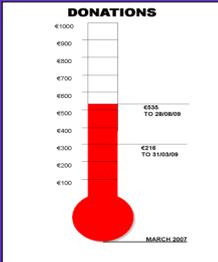
Our costs:

Rising costs: staffing pensions, minimum wage, inflation, resources.



What does this mean?

- Less resources
- Diminishing IT
- Limited playtime resources
- Reduced/cancelling trips



What are we trying to do?

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Fund raising is a definite income winner for us. Our School Council have already written to Tesco and Barratts and have been awarded with £1000 from each.

GOVERNORS:

Supporting the school to look at all spending avenues, ensuring effective value for money.

STAFFING:

We have an amazing team of staff who pull together whatever the weather! If a teacher is absent then we will do our utmost to cover classes internally. Mrs Wall now teaches three days a week in Year 1 and I am teaching Year 6 at the moment in the absence of Ms Manson. If a lunchtime supervisor is absent then Mrs Wall and myself or another member of staff will often put a pinnie on and support lunchtimes. We currently have no School Business Manager and are saving money by the office staff and SLT taking on different parts of the role.

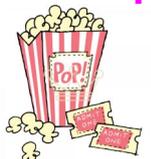
REDUCE, RECYCLE REUSE:

Spending, for sometime, has been capped and held centrally with the bursar.

Limitations are being placed on our spends when we would previously have afforded things: software licenses, playground equipment, courses for staff and developments in school.

GRANTS AND BIDS:

We have been very fortunate to have made improvements via grants. The roundhouse was built through a National Lottery bid. The playground markings and the gym equipment which is planned to be completed by the end of the summer term are also from grants which we have applied for and been successful.



Parents Friends Association:

The Parent Friends Association are working hard to organize a variety of events over the coming term to raise funds for the school. The School Council and Class Council have the opportunity to decide the resource the funds are spent on. The pupil voice has decided that they would like tablets for the classrooms to help with their learning. The PFA have already bought a large number of tablets which the children are thrilled about. The pupils are currently discussing the resources they would like to raise money for next.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The government gives schools additional funding to help children who may have a disadvantage - such as low income, a parent in the military or a child in care. This funding is to help raise standards.

Funds per child range from £300- £1900.

Unfortunately, families who are eligible do not sign up and therefore we do not get the right funding. We would like you to consider enrolling if you are eligible. If successful school will be offering you a helping hand with school uniform; a jumper or cardigan. Governors are reviewing uniform support for existing PPG families, when our new budget is approved.

Parents must apply for free school meals via the County Council or school, this is a quick and simple process. **Telephone 0845 155 1019** with your National Insurance Number, date of birth, name and child's details and an eligibility check can be carried out.

Once on the register your uniform support will be initiated.



FAMILIES WITH ENGLISH as an ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE:

If your child is bilingual, because Mum or Dad speaks a different language at home, and they are learning English, we can access additional funding for the school to support their learning and progress.

Please let the school know by contacting the office .



JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Talk to your partner, husband, wife to see if their company would support, match fund or provide resources or working party to improve a resource at school
- Let the Parents Friends Association know or the school office if you have any additional ideas
- Attend any of our events— have fun and spend some money!
- Help prepare or run part of our events—Bingo, quiz, fairs