

# Fort Royal

Community Primary School

*"Play, Learn, Laugh, Succeed"*

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Headteacher: Mr E. Francis

## RE: School Funding

18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear parent/carers,

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding in recent months. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. This April we were put under even further pressure as the well-deserved national staff pay award has (so far) not been supported with a corresponding increase in funding from the LA or government. As staffing costs are by far and away our greatest expenditure this in itself is beginning to have a significant impact. The senior leadership team and governors at Fort Royal have been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made. For example, from September we have decided not to replace one of the teaching assistants who is leaving, we have postponed the appointment for the vacant position of specialist sensory teaching assistant and we have had to make the decision to drastically cut our supply budget, which means some classes will not be receiving cover when colleagues are sick or on training courses.

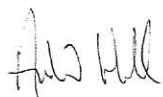
Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that seven out of ten school leaders think that their budgets will be unsustainable by the 2019 academic year. In July, the Department for Education re-allocated £1.3 billion for schools from existing budgets, but this is over two years and is not sufficient. Nationally, there is a £2bn gap in funding each year until 2022. It's clear that the Treasury must now provide additional resources to resolve the funding crisis.

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible. However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.

Please be assured that we will take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. We are also letting the local authority and government know just how serious the funding crisis has become.

We promise to let you know you in plenty of time if our budget means we'll have to take a significant decision on staffing or activities.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr A. Mills**  
Chair of Governors



**Mr E. Francis**  
Headteacher

