



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

Friday, 28 September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Worth Less Campaign

You may have seen in the news today that over 1,000 headteachers are in London to raise awareness within the general public and government of the critical state of school funding.



I had planned to be there but can't for family and school commitments.

As a group, headteachers do not generally like to draw attention to matters such as this and tend to leave it to politicians and unions. However there is a real groundswell within the groups of headteachers I know that we must say something and do something to raise attention in the wider public to some of our concerns.

Let me stress this is a not a party political message but a message to explain why you might have noticed some changes with how we and other schools are operating and also what further changes you might see in the months and years to come.

As I start my eighth year as head at Edgewood I have seen the bottom line figure within our budget grow as our pupil numbers have increased. This is the figure that keeps appearing in the press when people say schools have never had more money. It is true – we have more money in total. But we have this extra money because we have more pupils and we therefore need to spend more to educate them.

However that total funding has not kept pace with the increased costs given to schools. The Institute for Fiscal Studies states real terms funding has dropped by 8% per pupil since 2010.

Nottinghamshire children are also worse off than others nationally as we are in the 40 worst funded authorities. Children in parts of London, for example, get around 30% more per pupil than the average amount and we are funded less than that!

The current situation means we get less money to support children with additional needs, as an employer, we have to make greater contributions to staff costs such as national insurance and pensions (and this is due to go up by an additional 40% for some staff from next year), we have to spend school money supporting children when they need other support, such as well-being or emotional support.

On top of all this, a wealth of services that used to be available from the Local Authority or other public bodies for free to schools or with minimal costs, either simply aren't there or we have to pay substantial sums to access them. These are things such as counselling, training and courses, checks for building and grounds and ever increasing repair works to school buildings.

Despite all of this, the budget at our school is currently in a comparatively good place as we have trimmed excess, reduced waste, saved on staffing where we can and made good fiscal choices. However that well of savings is running very low and we are at a point where our only way to save further might be to reduce staffing levels.

Heads are not asking for limitless funds that can be frittered away on pointless activities – we are asking for a fair amount of funding to run our schools so your children can thrive.

Ed Seeley

Attendance



Well done to Verde class who had the best attendance of 99.33% this week.

Attendance overall has dropped slightly these last two weeks. Please ensure that children are in as often as possible so we can achieve our whole school target of 97% or better attendance.

Payments to school

Please can you make sure that any money you send in to school to pay for trips etc. is sent in a labelled envelope with your child's name, what the money is for and how much should be in the envelope.

If you don't have any envelopes at home, please bring the money straight to the office where our staff will be happy to take your money and label it correctly.



School photographs

Please ensure all orders and money are returned to the school office by Thursday 4th October 2018. Orders can be made over the internet directly with Jane Stapleton Photography with a debit or credit card.

Mr Seeley
Head Teacher