



FIRS FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Funding

Dear Parents/ Carers,

You may have seen a number of stories in the press and on the news about school funding. The Government is introducing a new funding formula for schools which is supposed to create a fairer system for all schools around the country; this will not benefit the schools in our area. There have been many worrying headlines and the staff and Governors at Firs Farm felt it important to let you know, as far as we are able to at this stage, how this will affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. At Firs Farm we have always maximised our resources to ensure the best possible provision for the children.

The impact of the cuts and the new funding formula includes increased school staffing costs; reduced services from the Local Authority means additional costs to our schools including Educational Psychology, training for staff, intervention support, maternity scheme and school improvement services.

Changes to the Special Educational Needs funding for 2017 will mean less funding for pupils with Education Health Care Plans, rendering the school to make up the shortfall.

Also, the introduction of the new government Apprenticeship Levy, from April 2017, will mean schools will have to pay a set amount adding further strain on the budgets of all schools.

As a Headteacher dedicated to the needs of the children, I have been part of a recent meeting with David Burrowes, MP, to vocalise the effect this will have on our school.

Firs Farm is predicted to lose over £50,000 in the first year, and more by 2018/2019.

Parents across the country are campaigning for fair access for all schools and have a website:

www.fairfundingforallschools.org

facebook page and twitter link:

facebook.com/fairfundingforallschools

@fairfundschoo

We would welcome your support with this by writing to your local MP to express concerns about the funding cuts. The deadline for the final consultation is 22nd March 2017.

Please be assured that we will set the budget to have the least impact on the children's learning, which will always be our priority.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jane Pomfret
Headteacher

