

# GOVERNOR UPDATE

## Our finely balanced budget

In this newsletter we have chosen to focus on why the support we receive from parents, friends and family is so crucial to us. Whether it is ensuring the children complete their homework, understanding what they are learning, coming along to events or contributing financially, it all makes a massive difference to the success of the school.

It is really important that you recognise the impact you can have. Thank you for all that you do and your continued support.

*Rebecca Rawson, Chair of Governors*

One of the things that often surprises new governors is how finely balanced the budget of, particularly a small school, really is and that we are always treading a fine line with income vs expenditure. Each year we set a three year forecast predicting what we think the budget will look like taking into account predicted pupil numbers.

Keeping an eye on what might be going to happen in the future is a key area for governors. The government is currently looking at amending the national funding formula for schools which has the potential to negatively affect our income levels. We are keeping an eye on this but, until it is settled, we can't be certain what the outcome will be for our school.

By following the progress, we hope to be able to make more informed decisions about future spending to keep our school in the best possible position.

It is often difficult to cover our outgoings with the level of annual income the school receives. The loss of just a single pupil (or the joining of a new pupil) can, and does, have a more significant impact on balancing our budget that you might expect. We are always looking to increase our income without negatively changing the culture of the school. There are a few ways you can help further without any financial cost. Please chat to school or governors if you are interested in hearing more.

### Free school meals

Known as the 'pupil premium' school benefits from extra money for children who are eligible for free school meals which directly helps your children. If the current government initiative for free meals for children in Reception/Y1/Y2 didn't exist do you think your circumstances would mean you would be entitled to claim free school meals? Similarly if you think you might be entitled to claim even on a temporary basis please don't be put off. School can claim funding for up to six years after a child was eligible for free school meals.

If you want to know more please come and have a confidential chat with school.

### Promoting our school

Maintaining our pupil numbers at 100 or just above (our "magic" number of pupils to help our income match our expenses) is crucial. Without children from outside our catchment we would have serious concerns with our budget. Maintaining a good reputation by parents talking positively to friends is

extremely important to continuing to bring new children to us.

### Income

£2,909 Annual payment per child	Pupil premium payment for looked after or children eligible for free school meals
£8,420 Annual PE funding	School fundraising i.e. dress down days, donations etc
Adhoc grants for classroom refurbishment etc	Money raised by Parents and Friends for school resources and special events

### Expenditure

Staffing (salaries for a new teacher start at £22,467 )	Traded Services i.e. building and cleaning, financial management, HR, school meal provision etc
Resources i.e. ICT, furniture, books and learning resources	Energy, maintenance bills etc
Any developments such as classroom improvements	Staff training and development

# Back to school

In October I spent the morning in Eagles with class teacher Mrs Hursthouse and fellow governor Carol Cessford. All governors have a 'link' class and Eagles is mine. This age group is particularly interesting (read scary) to me as my three children have yet to reach there and I have no idea what to expect from the years that are most important in terms of their SATs.



We started the day with quick fire mental times tables which made me instantly think I needed to relearn mine. We then moved on to a short but calming tai chi session before the real work began: fast paced maths and english group work.

I was really shocked at the level the children were expected to work at and how solidly they kept at it all morning. I am sure that there was a lot they were doing I didn't learn until high school. It really made me think that I needed to brush up on my modal verbs (still not sure what they are!), prepositions and adverbs so I had a fighting chance helping with homework.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar is key. The children knew to use a dictionary to help them spell correctly but it really opened my eyes to how important spelling homework was.

Surprisingly a child can fail their SATs if they can't writing in cursive or 'joined up' script. A pen licence is awarded to Y5 and Y6 children who can consistently write clearly and cursively in pen.

I have often considered a change of career to teaching and can't decide whether the day put me off for life with the level of work involved or inspired me to look into it again!

Thanks to Mrs Hursthouse and some very well behaved children for the experience!

*Lorna Thornley, Parent Governor*



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ready, steady BAKE!!!

On Saturday 3rd December school will be holding a christmas fair and 'bake off' in the school hall. Unfortunately Paul Hollywood can't make it but there is guaranteed fun, games and tempting treats for all ages as well as a little competition for all you budding bakers out there! See you there! 11am - 2pm

### £1000s from new school lottery

A few weeks ago we launched a new school lottery. Whilst this lottery is a bit more expensive than the one we used to run, the prizes are bigger and crucially the school stands to benefit quite considerably if parents and friends sign up. For instance if we reach 50 members the school will receive over £1000, which would buy us another four laptops for pupils. You can sign up by visiting:  
[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/kirk-smeaton-ce-primary-school/supporter](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/kirk-smeaton-ce-primary-school/supporter)



**And finally...** just a few pictures from our successful fire safety bonfire event which was organised and supported by governors and staff governors.

### Contact us

We would love to hear what you think about this newsletter or any ideas you have for future content. Please speak to any of us at school or email us on  
**[cofg@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:cofg@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk)**