

St Francis' Catholic Primary School



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Head teacher:
Mrs Catherine Hunt

Ensuring for all an excellent child-centred education within a Christ-centred philosophy

24 June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

School Funding

I am sure you will be aware of recent articles in the press regarding the present challenges around school funding. Many schools in this area have had to make some very tough decisions over the past couple of years involving staffing cuts, increased class sizes and restrictions over the purchase of supplies and equipment.

Whilst we have preserved our staffing levels, it will come as no surprise to you to learn that our budget is very tight this year with little room for any extras. We have put a great deal of thought into how to improve our financial position and have already successfully applied for grants from various charities and government funds.

As a church school, we are able to bid for a share of a source of funding that comes from the government through the Clifton Diocese to voluntarily aided schools. This year, we have successfully bid for a sizeable project involving work on our ceilings to improve the sound quality and lighting in the school. Some of our lighting is now so old that we cannot source replacement parts any more. We have also secured a smaller amount of funding to improve disabled access to the school site. In order to access any of this funding, we are expected to contribute a small percentage of the total amount from our budget. We have enough in theory in our school budget to cover the cost, but this obviously means leaving another area of the budget vulnerable.

The percentage needed this year equates to approximately £20 per family here at school. Some families already contribute to this percentage through their Gift Aid donations and we thank you for your generosity. We are asking each family to consider making a special donation to this specific project this year to help us complete it. Although we have given you a £20 per family figure, we realise that everyone has different commitments and budgets and we will be grateful for anything you can afford. All your donations are of course voluntary.

If you feel you could contribute we would welcome payments via cash, cheque or standing order (if you would prefer to set up a payment on a more regular basis). If you are a taxpayer, contributions can be gift aided as long as you return the attached gift aid declaration. This will allow us to reclaim tax you have paid, increasing the value of your gift at no extra cost to you. Enclosed with this letter are:

Email: office@stfrancispri.org
Website: www.st-francis.n-somerset.sch.uk

- A standing order form. This should be completed and returned to your bank or you can set up the standing order online if you are signed up to internet banking
- Tear-off slip to return to school if you prefer to contribute by cheque or cash. Cheques should be made payable to “St Francis School, Special Projects Fund”
- The gift aid declaration for completion and return to the school.

As a staff, we would like to thank you for all that you do to help make this school the best it can be for the children – we recognise and appreciate all the contributions parents make financially, with their time and with resources and skills. I know we will all continue to work together to overcome any challenges we face, now and in the future.

With very best wishes

Catherine Hunt
Head teacher