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# FERN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr.A.Scott

Date 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Fern Hill Primary School Voluntary Fund**

Last October we established a School Voluntary fund to supplement our financial resources at a time when government funding to schools is declining in real terms. We were very encouraged by the response and by the end of the school year 2016/17 we had raised £18,884.78, which enabled us to begin a programme of replacing the interactive whiteboards that were coming to the end of their useful life. Thank you so much to all the families that contributed last year.

Finances continue to be very tight and whilst our income may increase a little this will not match increases in our costs. Teacher salaries are the most significant area of expenditure and we anticipate a relaxation of the pay cap without corresponding increase in budgets. Fern Hill has always been able to run a balanced budget and even generate a small surplus to meet unexpected expenses. More recently it has had to use this surplus and the reserves are depleted. It is our intention to continue to protect current staffing wherever possible, which means that cost reduction will most likely impact the provision of technology equipment. Whilst the school continues to explore a range of options for both the reduction of costs and generation of additional income, it is becoming challenging to keep our ICT replacement programme on track. We are therefore inviting further contributions to our voluntary funds.

Parents of pupils starting school this autumn have already been asked if they are willing to take part in this scheme and we have had a good response. A number of parents of children already at the school have continued to make monthly payments into the fund. If you have not made arrangements to continue your contribution this year, or have not so far been able to make one, we are inviting you to support the fund.

We are suggesting again a voluntary contribution of £10 a month from each family. This would enable us to replace ICT equipment coming to the end of their life and ensure that pupils continue to benefit from the very rich educational offering that we currently provide. The fund will not be used to meet staffing costs and will be separate from contributions you make for specific trips and activities. It is also separate from the PSA's valuable fundraising activities.

Parents should donate only as much as they would like to. Some parents may not be able to, or wish to, donate at all. A contribution of £10 a month, if made by every family, would help us raise up to £50,000 towards replacing ICT equipment used for teaching and learning. Parents may prefer to make a single £120 annual payment or £40 per term.

You can pay more if you wish but please understand that there is no obligation to make any contribution. We want to stress that this is a voluntary contribution and any amount however large or small will be very welcome.

*We are passionate about developing the whole child and instilling an enduring love of learning*



Inspiration

Collaboration

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Excellence

We have made arrangements so that contributions can be made by BACS transfer or standing order into the Fund's bank account or by cash or cheque through the school office. You can also pay via the shop in ParentMail. If you prefer you can make a single payment for the school year, a termly payment, or a monthly payment. The specific details are:

- **BACS transfer:** the bank account details are:  
Account name: Fern Hill Primary Volunteers Fund  
Account number: 77989168  
Sort code: 30-94-77
- **Standing Order:** You can pay directly into the fund by setting up a Standing Order with your bank using:  
Account name: Fern Hill Primary Volunteers Fund  
Account number: 77989168  
Sort code: 30-94-77
- **Cash:** Cash should be put in a named envelope stating 'Fern Hill Primary Volunteers Fund' and handed into the school office where a receipt will be issued.
- **Cheque:** Cheques should be made out to 'Fern Hill Primary Volunteers Fund' and handed into the school office where a receipt will be issued.
- **ParentMail:** Payment may be made online via the shop on ParentMail. There are two options: The **monthly instalment option** which will remind you to pay £10 every month of the year or the **£10 option** which allows you to make a one off payment of as many multiples of £10 as you choose.

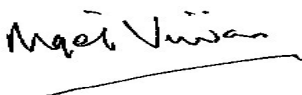
The fund has been registered for charitable status. If you are a tax payer and complete the Gift Aid Form attached to this letter this allows us to claim gift aid on every donation. We then get an additional 25p for every pound donated. This would add £30 to an annual donation of £120.

As we did last year, we will publish a summary of how we have used the money raised. This will enable parents to see how their contributions have been used.

If you have further questions or comments about the fund, please feel free to contact us at [costincome@fernhill.rbksch.org](mailto:costincome@fernhill.rbksch.org). You could also speak to the Head teacher, Adam Scott, or another member of the Senior Leadership Team, who are always available at drop off.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the many ways that you already support the school. The feedback we received from the Parent survey was very positive and we look forward to another great year ahead.

Best wishes,



Nigel Vivian  
Chair of the Governing Body



Adam Scott  
Headteacher

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