



POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher
Miss Louisa Ingram

January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term from the School Governors.
We would like to introduce you to our new Parent Giving initiative.

Parent Giving Scheme

Background

You might have seen recently in the news, Head Teachers highlighting to the Government that it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage tightening education budgets. In reality, over many years, school budgets are proving an ongoing challenge to many schools, including Potten End.

In the past, we have used school budgets to solely pay for good quality education (teaching staff) and to fund resources and the upkeep of the building. More recently, with cuts in local government funding, we are finding the role of the school as an education provider, has extended to include the funding of social, emotional and personal wellbeing of a much broader range and increased number of children's needs.

Our goal is to ensure all our children have the support they need to be happy at school and thrive, but as a Governing Board we now find ourselves having to make choices because we cannot afford to cover all costs. Over time this will continue to limit our ability to provide the broadest range of educational experiences we would want and expect for our children.

Current Situation

It is probably no surprise to you to know that the school's biggest expense is covering our staffing costs which takes up 87% of our total budget. The remaining 13% is under pressure to cover ever increasing costs of running our wonderful school. We use this budget to purchase resources to support teaching and also buy goods and services to support the running of the school.

What have we already done to save money?

Like any organisation, we are constantly looking for ways to reduce costs and save money. For example, we regularly review external vendor providers and switch providers where we do not receive good value, for example we reviewed our IT and Health & Safety vendors. By having painting parties – DIY SOS style - and parents volunteering their time, we recently saved money (over £400) by not having an external company do the work. We even have to look at the small things – like changing toilet roll holders so smaller amounts are dispensed and don't end up on the floor!

What do we need to do to ensure we make the best provision for our school?

Our school has a great reputation for the quality of the education, care and support we provide to our children and we feel it is vital that this is both sustained and enhanced.

As a Governing Board, we are here to guide and support the school and its management team and to this end we are now launching our "**Parent Giving Scheme**" which seeks to ask parents/carers to consider donating their **money** to the school, to help enrich our children's environment. We would like to add that Parent Giving Schemes are now common place in both primary and secondary schools both in Hertfordshire and nationally.

If you do feel you might be able to spare a small amount every month (suggested donation is **£10 per month PER FAMILY** but any regular amount is welcome) via Standing Order, we can help support

and plan for such projects as upgrading our technology and IT to sustain pupil education.

We appreciate that a financial donation is not always feasible but that many parents may have the time to volunteer within the school on a regular basis – by helping in class – or on a one-off basis – when we put a call out for help in particular skills.

How does this work with Friends of School?

We are blessed to have one of the most successful, energised and passionate Friends of School in the area and in recent years we have seen them raise on average £10,000 annually from their range of events they run throughout the year, which has paid for an amazing array of special purchases, from iPads, to sports uniforms, to playground markings and equipment.

Perhaps more importantly, the fundraising events our Friends of School organize, make a significant contribution to the sense of fun and community within and around the school and we all wish to see this continue. The Parent Giving Scheme is not an alternative to Friends of School fundraising and will be run in parallel to this.

What will your donations be spent on?

Your Parent Giving donations will go directly towards helping fund the basic requirements of managing an old building, which needs constant repair, and resources that are needed to support teaching and education. As a school, if we do not continue to reduce our costs further or increase revenue (or a combination of both), our current budget will be diverted from teaching and learning and as a local community (parents, teaching staff and children), we do not want this to happen. Therefore, we are proactively reaching out for your support. We will report every 6 months, specifically where this money was spent.

What can I do to support?

There are a number of ways you can contribute to the school financially:

- Ideally, by setting up a Standing Order either, through online banking or by completing a Standing Order form, available from your bank - our bank account details are set out at the end of this letter or;
- As a one off Annual Payment through Wise Pay – ensuring that you clearly identify it as ‘Parent Giving’ or;
- By cash or cheque in a clearly labelled envelope for “Parent Giving Scheme” made payable to Potten End C of E Primary School.

All donations are completely confidential and the information provided is maintained in compliance with our Privacy Policy and GDPR.

We do hope that you feel able, during this time of giving, to consider donating financially to support the school.

If you have any further questions, please do speak to any of the following Governors - Bradley Nunn, Emma Harris, Claire Wallis, James Bett, Chris Eaton or Liz Illingworth - either in person or via email.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support to our lovely school. We wish you a prosperous 2019.

**The Governing Board
Potten End C of E Primary School**

STANDING ORDER DETAILS

**ACC/NUMBER: 13234584
SORT CODE: 20-17-19
ACCOUNT NAME: POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY
REFERENCE: PEPS Parent Giving**