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4th November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

As governors we have taken the unusual step of writing to you to make you aware of funding changes to state schools. The government is making schools responsible for a number of essential costs, which until now have been funded outside of individual school budgets. As a result all state schools in the country are facing a very substantial budget cut.

At Headley Park Primary School we are facing an annual reduction in real terms in our budget of about £100,000 from September 2017 onwards. That is about 7% of our total budget. This is too much money for us to save through basic efficiencies in how we run and resource the school site or for us to expect to raise through local fundraising initiatives.

We have also been warned that if funding formulas change nationally we are likely to lose further money in future years because Bristol schools have traditionally been better funded than many of the other neighbouring counties.

We are therefore facing some very tough choices. The only area where we can annually make the kind of savings required is from the staffing budget, but we don't want to lose any of our wonderful staff. The only way we can significantly increase our income is by increasing class sizes, but we know that increasing class sizes could impact negatively our children's learning.

We know this is likely to come as a shock to many of you. These funding changes have been largely ignored by the media. Rest assured that we have, as governors and senior staff, been working on some provisional plans for several months to safeguard our children's education and ensure they continue to receive an outstanding education. If you would like more information please speak to one of the governors directly – you can email Katie Maule or Neil Todman via mfredrickson@headleypark.bristol.sch.uk, or come to the special governors' Coffee Morning on Thursday November 17th, 8:50am-9:30am.

It would also be worth expressing your concern to your local MP. For those of us who live in South Bristol that is Karin Smyth. Her email address is Karin.smyth.mp@parliament.uk. If the government really values education, our children, and their future then it needs to demonstrate that by funding schools properly.

Yours faithfully,

Katie Maule (Chair); Neil Todman (Vice Chair); Nikki Cotterill and Nick Smith

On behalf of the Governing Body of Headley Park Primary School