



Willow Lane Community Primary School

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Dear Mums, Dad and Carers,

RE: School Funding

You may have seen a number of stories in the news around school funding. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The Governors and School Leadership Team have successfully managed the school's finances and our budget is currently healthy. However there are more challenging times ahead and our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. The National Audit Office estimate a £3 billion real terms cut across all phases and in all schools.

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However with increasing costs placed onto all schools, the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see. In fact, Willow Lane is in line to lose funds at the same time as running costs mount. One interpretation of the funding proposal sees the school lose -£26,000 while the School Cuts website (www.schoolcuts.org.uk), analysing the same DfE data, projects that all schools in our part of Lancashire will lose and that Willow Lane's budget will change to the tune of -£140,000!

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible. However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions may have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.

Please be assured that we will continue to take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. We are working alongside other school leaders to communicate with the local authority, MPS and the government to highlight how serious the funding crisis has become.

We promise to let you know you in plenty of time if any budget changes mean we'll have to take a significant decision on staffing or activities that we offer.

Yours sincerely,

Mel MacKinnon (Headteacher)

Nick Harrison (Chair of Governors)

