

10th March 2017



Dear Families,

**Thank you for coming to parents' evenings this week and for your thoughtful responses to the survey. I will read them with care and next week report back via the newsletter to share your comments and identify how we will respond.**

**At the moment there isn't any strong subject suggested for the Parent Governor Focus group...**

### Upcoming events

Red Nose day Friday 24th March— we are dressing up as silly as we can!

PTA cake sale Wednesday 29th March after school— please get baking as donations will be needed!!!!!!

The Big Pedal Challenge is taking place at Woodgrange from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March. On each day of the challenge schools in the area compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting to school. More information to follow!



### Playground developments

Our new "Reading Shed" has been delivered and the sun has shone!

Over the Easter Holidays we will be having some artificial grass installed in 2 areas of the classroom to provide new quieter spaces to play. The areas are the sloping area at the front and an area next to the woods.

I am also exploring the possibility of having a canopy fitted across the Year 2 part of the building.

This will provide shelter from the rain as well as shading the rooms from the heat of the summer sun. This plan is however, subject to costs.



### School Budgets

As you will have heard all London schools are facing challenging times ahead.

This coming financial year the amount of money we receive for each pupil has stayed the same as last year. This takes no account of rising costs for staff- a very modest 1% increase, rising fuel prices, increased business rates (yes we are counted as a business!) and everything we buy— inflation at >2%. THIS IS A REDUCTION IN FUNDS BEFORE WE FACE THE ACTUAL CUTS.

The Governing Body will be helping me review how we can make more effective use of our resources so we continue to provide the same standards on more limited funds.

At our last meeting Governors agreed that we should start to charge for the milk provided for pupils aged 5 or over, unless entitled to free school meals. We will be in touch about this next week.

### Educational Visits

We have always tried to plan good value visits— to free museums and parks etc. By using TfL rather than coaches we can ensure the majority of our visits are completely free. We do occasionally plan something special— such as Year 1's upcoming visit to the Ballet— where there are costs. In this case we do ask for a 50% contribution from parents. This is voluntary but, without your help we might not be able to continue with these special opportunities. I do therefore urge you to make your contribution if you can. If anyone wants to pay more than 50% they are most welcome to.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Have a good weekend

Sarah & Staff

