

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

FINHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

As I have previously written to you, The Government is planning to introduce a new “National Funding Formula” for all schools from April 2018 and the media is getting more and more lively around these significant changes to education.

The Governments stated intention is to introduce a funding formula that addresses the long-standing inequalities in school funding that have existed for many years. Unfortunately the impact of the planned changes will be to significantly reduce the money available to schools in Coventry.

The Coventry Schools Forum, a group comprising representatives of all schools and other educational settings in Coventry, recently met to consider the impact of the planned changes.

If the new formula had been implemented for the 2016/17 financial year all schools in Coventry (except for 4 Primary schools) would have received less funding. The majority will see up to a 1.5% per pupil funding reduction in 2018/19 rising to up to 2.9% in 2019/20. The impact of the planned changes on your school can be seen on the following website (this includes funding protection arrangements that will be in place until 2019/20):

[https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/supporting\\_documents/Impact%20of%20the%20proposed%20schools%20NFF\\_20161220.xlsm](https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/supporting_documents/Impact%20of%20the%20proposed%20schools%20NFF_20161220.xlsm)

Nationally, 54% of schools will not be on the new funding formula by 19/20 (i.e. receiving funding protection in addition to funding formula allocation), and in Coventry this represents in excess of 80% of schools. This indicates that those schools will have further funding reductions after the 2019/20 financial year, subject to any future funding protection arrangements. The position after 2019/20 has not been clarified in this consultation.

You may have also seen in the media that a recent report by the National Audit Office into school funding concluded that in order to meet cost pressures out of the control of schools, nationally schools will need to make savings of £3 billion by 2019-20. This equates to an 8% real-terms reduction in pupil funding between 2014-15 and 2019-20.

Schools in Coventry, through the Schools Forum reached the following conclusions, which will be reflected in its response to the on-going government consultation:

- There is insufficient funding within the national education system to implement the new formula and associated funding protection, and allow schools to meet the budgetary pressures they face;
- The proposals generally lack a cost evidence base or rationale other than historic (average) spending patterns across the country, and this could make certain types and sizes of school unviable;
- With this in mind the DfE should consider whether the planned reduction to the funding allocated to each pupil and to the school lump-sum is the right decision, when they underpin the funding to **all** schools;
- Concerns that funding will drive policy change rather than vice versa;
- There is no recognition of the significant employment termination and restructure costs that schools and Local Authorities may face on top of funding reductions;
- By 19/20 54% of schools nationally will not be funded by the new formula due to protection rates. Clarity of the position past 19/20 is absolutely key.

Please help our schools by supporting their efforts to make the changes needed and to provide your school with the funding it needs to provide the best possible education for your children and understand that many decisions that are made in school are often forced by these financial pressures, from the cost of trips, staffing ratios, school resources and enrichment activities.

At Finham, we have worked very hard to balance our budget in year and have had to make significant changes. One of the areas that will be most noticeable to you as parents will be the decommissioning of the TV screens in front of school. The governors, staff and I are determined to work tirelessly to protect the quality of provision for all the children and are working in different ways to steer Finham through this significant time in education and appreciate the support we get from parents and the wider community. We will contest these changes but are not naive enough to think that stamping our feet will work. Your children need the best now and in the future! It is our ability to adapt to change that will see us through!

***'Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning to dance in the rain!'***

Have a great weekend.

Richard Machin  
Headteacher.

### **YEAR 6 GAMES FOR MACMILLIAN**

On Wednesday 6th April, Year 6 are organising activities for Year 1,2,3 and 4 at lunchtime. There will be lots of fun things to do. Each game is 20p to play and they want to raise the money for MacMillan Cancer Support.

### **ART SESSION – CENTRAL LIBRARY – EASTER HOLIDAYS**

Coventry Libraries are offering children aged 8 to 11 the chance to earn an Arts Award\* Discover certificate by taking part in some free fun arts activities on:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 5 pm and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 5 pm at Central Library.

Children will learn about different kinds of art, find out about artists, try out collage and mono printing and perhaps make new friends as well!

Both sessions need to be attended and places are limited, so booking is required

For further information and to book a place parents/carers need to contact Anne McFadden or Marie Shipley [anne.mcfadden@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:anne.mcfadden@coventry.gov.uk) or [marie.shipley@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:marie.shipley@coventry.gov.uk)

### **STYVECHALE GRANGE PRE-SCHOOL SUMMER FETE**

Styvechale Grange Pre-School – are holding their Summer Fete at St James Church, Knoll Drive, CV3 5BT on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 11:00 – 16:00

If you would like to purchase a table please contact Jacqui for more information [jacquidrudge@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquidrudge@hotmail.com)

### **DATES FOR DIARY**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Years 2 & 3 Production – 2pm

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Swimathon trip – Year 4

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Guitar Assembly – 9am

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Years 2 & 3 Production – 6pm

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Teacher Training Day