

Featherstone Wood Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss L Shuttleworth

10th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you will be aware from the national news that there have been considerable constraints placed upon school budgets. This is beginning to have severe consequence for schools. I wanted to update you how the school has responded to these and some changes that will come into force in September.

Firstly I have written to the Chancellor for the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Education and the Chair of the Education Select Committee. I have also forwarded the letter to the leaders of the main political parties and the Stevenage MP. I have met with Stephen McPartland, MP to discuss these concerns in more detail and look at possible ways to improve the situation.

The main issue impacting schools is the fact that other services are having to cut their core offer or charge for it, which means schools are having to pay more or offer more themselves. The best example of this is the crisis in mental health care and how difficult it is to get appointments, currently taking roughly a year to get an appointment if we are lucky. This means to get any emotional support for our pupils we have been paying for two therapists and our nurture TA. Unfortunately this is no longer viable and we will only have one therapist in September. We have also taken the decision not to replace Mrs Handysides Pastoral position.

The other main change that will affect parents directly is the charges the school makes will have to increase. These are listed below and still keep us competitive with private providers. However, we are no longer able to subsidise these clubs fully through our budget.

	From September 2019	Current Situation
After School Clubs	£5 per child per half term	Subsidised by the school
Nursery afternoon cost for 30 hours children	Extra hour increasing to £7.50	£6 an hour
Breakfast Club	Increasing to £3 per session	£2.50 per session
Swimming	£2.50 per week with the rest covered by the school	£2 per week and the rest covered by the school
School Meals	£2.55 per meal	£2.45

With this in mind, if you think you are eligible for free school meals (FSM) it is vital that you let us know. Even if you are not taking them up, the school receives extra money per FSM child – currently £1,320 per child. This does have a massive impact on the budget and if our children are entitled to it then it makes sense to claim it.

I am sure you will understand that it has not been an easy decision for myself or the Governors to increase charges but it is vital moving forward. And we wanted to give you as much notice as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. Shuttleworth", enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Louise Shuttleworth
Headteacher