

Friday 8th March 2019



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School Funding Issues Makes National News!



Dear Parents and Carers.

I wanted to contact you today to provide an update on current issues relating to school funding. I have personally been working closely with Jules White in West Sussex to galvanise all Hampshire 'grass-roots' headteachers to speak out about the poor levels of funding that Hampshire schools are experiencing alongside many other local authorities and boroughs around the country.

Sadly, I have to confirm that despite intense lobbying of the Government and Department for Education, matters remain extremely challenging. In short, schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resource to deliver the level of provision and support that is expected and that our families and children deserve.

Current Concerns

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8% and by 20% at post-16
- Class sizes are rising and the curricular offer is being restricted
- Increasingly, schools are being asked to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing. Frequently, we do not have adequate resource to meet a growing need.
- Often, the most vulnerable pupils in our schools - those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they are entitled to.

These issues are not simply affecting a few schools. They are common features across our education system up and down the country. Levels of concern are so widespread amongst headteachers that we are all working together with a united voice. As such, we have written to the Secretary of State for Education on three separate occasions since September 2018. We are dismayed that he has chosen to ignore our communications and repeated requests to meet. On 13th December 2018, we were informed by a junior civil servant that ***"I am afraid that, on this occasion, the Secretary of State and the Minister of State must decline your offer to meet. I hope you will understand that their time is heavily pressurised and their diaries need to be prioritised according to ministerial, Parliamentary and constituency business."***

Given the seriousness of the current school funding crisis and the impact upon schools, children and families, head teacher colleagues and I, believe that this approach is entirely ill-judged. On 14th January 2019, we wrote again to the Secretary of State for Education asking that he reconsider meeting with representative head teachers. Six weeks later, this request was declined once more: ***"As I'm sure you will appreciate, both their diaries are very full and they are unable to accept your kind offer at this time."*** Thousands of head teachers simply do not understand what issues could be seen as more important than the ones we are raising on behalf of schools, children and families.

In September 2018, over 2000 headteachers campaigned at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation. This action was unprecedented. In addition, I personally met with Damian Hinds MP in November and gave him copies of our concerns, but at that time, our main conversation was around Internet Safety, although he was fully aware of our campaign for better funding.

The 'Worth Less?' campaign group now comprises 64 Local Authorities and Boroughs, covering thousands of schools and millions of families. This gives a clear indication of the levels of concern felt by reasonable and moderate head teachers in England.

We continue to recognise that there is not a 'bottomless pit' of money and also acknowledge that many local MPs from across the political spectrum are taking a supportive approach. We must make clear, however, that the current response from the Department for Education is inadequate.

Why we need to meet

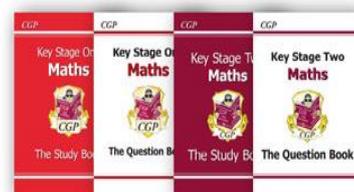
- Head teachers want to contribute constructively to overcome current funding issues.
- Head teachers want to reflect the serious concerns expressed by families regarding inadequate levels of resource and provision especially for our most vulnerable students.
- Head teachers want to ensure that schools receive a much better deal when future Government spending plans - the Comprehensive Spending Review - are drawn up over the next few months.
- Head teachers want to indicate serious and rising concerns relating to the wider pastoral and social care that schools are expected, by default, to provide against a background of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

Head teacher colleagues and I, feel fortunate that we have been so strongly supported by parents and carers as we campaign for a much improved level of funding for our schools and pupils. We urge you to continue to make representations to your local MP and to the Department for Education and wider Government to ensure that matters improve. We will continue to inform you of the facts and to campaign vigorously over coming weeks and months. A positive starting point should come from the Secretary of State for Education in the form of an urgent meeting.

Yours sincerely - Tony Markham

Revision Books on Sale at Parents Evening

Helping your children to follow-up their learning in school is well proven to be a great way to help your child to do well in their academic studies. We will again be offering discounted CGP maths and reading booklets at both of our Parents' Evenings. The school makes no profit out of this but as we buy them in bulk, so we can sell them to you for a very reasonable price. With the new national curriculum and formal assessments being substantially harder than the previous pre-2015 national curriculum, it is a joint challenge for schools and parents to make sure the children are well-supported in achieving these new higher expectations. These books are designed to be user-friendly and have helped many of our children over the last few years! 😊



Maths Revision Question book and Study book will be £5 (for both books) RRP £8.90 (for both)

Reading Revision books will be £2 (including the answers) RRP £3.50

These revision booklets (which are specific to each year group) are sometimes just useful for parents to see the challenging standard each child is expected to meet by the end of their year group.

Parents Evening Wednesday 13th March

If you have not made your appointment yet, please visit this link: <https://herne.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

The site will allow you to book online right through to 9pm on Tuesday evening (12th March). After that, you will need to call the school to make a last-minute appointment on 01730 263746.

Class/Leavers Photos – Thursday 14th March 2019

The photographers 'Yellow' will be visiting school on the 14th March to take the class & leavers' photos. If you do not wish your child to be in the class photo please contact the school via email/phone by the 12th March. Thank you.



Comic Relief – Friday 15th March

As a reminder, Comic Relief will be a mufti day next Friday where the children can wear their own clothes for a small donation of their choice, as long as they have something red (clothing or accessories!) If children want to come completely dressed in red, that's okay (so no Leicester City kits this time 😞)

School Uniform

We have noticed recently a number of children wearing non-uniform items of clothing or shoes (often trainers). Please can you ensure your child is in the correct uniform for school and not wearing non-uniform things, unless it is an official mufti day. Thank you.

Stamps

We will not be collecting used stamps for the RSPB in future as they no longer want them. However, if you have any used stamps they can be taken to the Nationwide Building Society in Petersfield. They collect for the Canine Partners Charity.

NSPCC – The Big Danceathon!

Just a reminder that any other Sponsorship money needs to be in by 12th March latest. Mandy from the NSPCC will be in on that day to say a huge thank you to us all. Well done so far everybody! 😊





Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February – 10th March

Mimosa Class in Year 6 have taken part in the 'Petersfield Fairtrade Art Shop Trail 2019' to raise awareness on the importance of Fairtrade. Look out for their beautiful artwork which is on display in the Natural Apothecary until 10th March 2019. Well done Mimosa Class! ☺

Hoodies

We are having a few issues with children in Year 6 wearing their hoodies in class. We have reminded the children that hoodies are only to be worn into school, at break, lunch and at the end of the day on their way home. They can be worn in PE lessons too. Unfortunately, if we have to keep reminding the same individuals about this then the Year 6 team may have to confiscate the hoodies from these children. We thank you in advance for your support with this.

Going home arrangements

Please ensure that your child is aware of their going home arrangements before they come to school. In an emergency we can get a message to your child but at busy times we cannot guarantee this, especially if a message comes in with 5 minutes to go.

Easter Activities with CM Sports at Herne

We are pleased to offer some Easter holiday activities through our new Sports Company CM Sports who help to cover PPA throughout the school every week. Every child at Herne has some of their PE lessons delivered to them by CM's expert coaches. The great news is that for every child booked on these courses, Herne will be given £5 per child per day to contribute to our sports facilities. This generous offer is because Herne is hosting these activities. If you have an infant age child, the infant school will get £3 per child, so you can support our infant school too. ☺

The courses can be booked from 8am through to 6pm which will help families who are working during the holiday period. Childcare vouchers can be accepted too. More information about these courses can be found on our website on this link:

<https://www.hernejunior.com/attachments/download.asp?file=319&type=pdf>

We will also Tweet the details tomorrow morning along with the rest of this Flyer.

Twitter: @HerneJunior



Easter Activities @ Herne Junior School

Date	Monday 8th April	Tuesday 9th April	Wednesday 10th April	Thursday 11th April	Friday 12th April
Club Footy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Club Active	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Club Performance			✓	✓	

= Go-Karts = Inflatables = Nerf Tag

The aim of our courses are for children, whatever their level, to have a great time and make friends in a safe, structured but fun environment. Girls and boys aged 5-14 (inclusive) are welcome.



March		March/April	
Tue 12 th	Deadline for NSPCC Money	Mon 25 th	Herne's ECO-WEEK – "Plastic Not Fantastic"
Wed 13 th	PARENTS' EVENING #2	Fri 29 th	3.00 Rocksteady Concert to parents
Thu 14 th	Class/Leavers Photos - Yellow	April	
Fri 15 th	Red Nose Day – wear something red	Mon 1 st	6.00 Herne's Got Talent FINAL at TPS
Mon 18 th	7.00 Petersfield Music Festival	Wed 3 rd	6.30 Y6 SATs Evening for Parents in Hall
Wed 20 th	7.00 Petersfield Music Festival	Thu 4 th	3.30 OPEN SCHOOL – see your child's books
		Fri 5 th	12.30 School closes for Easter Holidays