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REDHILL PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure many of you are aware, schools are facing significant funding pressures, making it difficult to maintain standards and the current provision in schools. These pressures are not just impacting the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities we offer pupils at Redhill, but it is also creating problems in funding the basics of the day to day running of our school. Schools funding formula is heavily weighted to support schools in areas of deprivation, and therefore due to these contextual factors, Redhill's funding per pupil is significantly lower than the funding for pupils in most Telford schools.

We are extremely grateful to our PTA who raise considerable funds and organise a plethora of events throughout the year, which certainly are not on offer at many schools. However, the school does acknowledge that this can put financial pressures on parents to support the school. So, despite the schools funding difficulties, an increase in these events is not believed to be an appropriate means to raising further funds for the school.

Having said that, as a result of these budget pressures, the school cannot continue to heavily subsidise children's educational visits. We are diligent in ensuring that we get the best financial value when organising visits, and we try and spread out the visits over the academic year, avoiding other school events which may incur a cost to parents. Many of the visits are already subsidised to try and keep costs down for parents, before letters are sent asking for voluntary contributions. Over time, contributions from parents have reduced, requiring the school to further support financially which is becoming untenable for Redhill. Over the last six visits organised, the school made a loss of exactly £1000, and this does not include the amount the school had already subsidised before setting a voluntary cost for parents.

I am writing this letter to make parents fully aware of this situation and to inform you that, sadly, without financial support for the visits from parents, we will have to cancel these events in the future. At Redhill, we pride ourselves on the provision and opportunities we provide for our children, and any decision to cancel a visit would not be taken lightly. We are very aware of the impact this could have on the children and the value of these visits have in enhancing the pupil's education.

Going forward we will endeavour to give parents more notice to make payments but also the school wishes to warn parents of the risk of cancellation due to low parental contributions. We would like to thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Claire Lamb
Headteacher

Beth Tutchener-Ellis
Chair of Governors

"Reaching for new heights, together"

