

Barnes Farm Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The governing body has decided to write to you to make you aware of the funding situation Essex schools are facing. I am sure you have seen the local and national press reporting about schools facing huge financial pressures. 98% of schools are facing an 8% cut in funding in real terms by 2020 and the National Audit Office reports that this amounts to a **£399 loss for every primary school child**. This is not fair on our pupils, who deserve better. These cuts have been brought about by rising costs of National Insurance, increased pension and staffing costs, Apprenticeship Levy charges and rising costs for support services for schools, including those supporting our most vulnerable children and families. Unfortunately, the proposed National Funding Formula will not address this lack of funding; in fact, many Essex schools will face further cuts.

We are concerned that the pressures on school budgets will start to have an impact on how well we are able to support our pupils with their education. With reduced funding there could be:

- Fewer teaching and support staff
- Class sizes rising
- Less support for all children, including those with special educational needs
- The loss of extra-curricular activities and trips

In our school the possible impact could be the following:

- Loss of additional 1:1 tuition -
- Fewer support staff
- Reduced access to additional services such as counselling, family support workers etc.

There is a national campaign running on Twitter *#whatwouldyoucut* which gives some examples of the cuts that schools might have to make. School leaders and governors will have to make difficult budget decisions and this campaign demonstrates exactly what is at stake. No one leading schools wants to take these difficult decisions but schools up and down the country are facing the same dilemma. We are asking the government, in the strongest possible terms, to “fund the 8% cut to school budgets.”

92% of Essex Primary Schools have been judged to be ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted. We all want this upward drive to continue to provide a first class education for all our children. Please join the campaign to support our schools and lobby as many people as possible, including your local MP, on behalf of all the pupils in our schools.

In the meantime, our school will endeavour to make savings and continue to deliver the best possible education for your children. However, we feel that it is important to let you know just how bad the funding situation is. Your support, as we continue with our campaign, will be vital.

Yours faithfully

Steve Andrews, Chair of the Governing Body