

# Broomhill Infant School



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Head teacher: Mrs Catherine Timbers

16/05/17

Dear Parent/Carer

Education continues to move through challenging times. The Key Stage 1 curriculum standards have been raised, the methods by which we assess our children have changed and at the same time we continue to face increasing financial pressures.

At Broomhill we are fortunate to have a staff who are fully committed to all that we hold dear and true. We believe in making a difference to the life chances of all our children and our ethos of 'valuing everyone, caring for each other and achieving excellence' underpins all our decisions.

You will be aware from media reports that schools across the country are facing huge funding challenges at present. Broomhill is no exception. Like every other school we face current and future pressures on school funding and we have no option but to absorb and respond to them.

We will all have different views about political decisions and the impact that they have on education. However, it is our responsibility to do the best that we can to ensure Broomhill Infant School continues to provide an outstanding education for all its pupils, by continuing to provide a staffing structure that ensures we have a sustainable structure into the future.

The facts about our funding are as follows:

**In 2015/16 Broomhill Infant School received a revenue of £666,985. In September 2017 we will receive £605,813. This is a fall of £61,172. Even without taking into account inflation this is a massive cut.**

This enormous decrease in revenue has been accompanied by an unprecedented increase in costs arising from additional employer pension contributions and increased employer National Insurance contributions for which we receive no extra funding.



We anticipated these changes and have taken a number of steps over the last three years to make our school financially sustainable:

- Recently the Head teacher, Admin manager and HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) have reduced contracts.
- We have not replaced support staff who have moved on from Broomhill
- We have been able to generate extra income by charging schools which are fellow members of the Sheaf Cooperative Trust for the use of two Broomhill TA's to support children with complex needs. We have also been able to make some savings by joint working with other schools in the Trust.
- From September 2016 the Teaching Assistant provision in Green Base and Blue Base has been shared.

The phase through which we are travelling is very challenging for all of us. Teaching unions are already citing workload pressures faced by teachers due to losses of vital classroom support from Teaching Assistants. Whilst we recognise that our changes will reduce this support, unfortunately the smaller budget we have been allocated does not allow us to continue without significant change.

The changes we have already made have involved some hard choices and changes to the ways in which the school works. But next year's sharply reduced budget means that we have to make further unwelcome cuts. Staffing represents over 80% of our budget and we have already economised sharply on our other expenditure. We have no option but to reduce staffing in order to meet the financial pressures we face.

We have undertaken a fundamental review of our staffing structure and in particular of the support staff who work in class. Very reluctantly we have had to create a staffing structure that will not include the dedicated Level 3 Teaching Assistant support in each class. We will continue to employ Level 2 Teaching Assistants to support individual children and groups of children who require extra support.

We hugely regret that valued and talented colleagues will lose their jobs as a result and we will do everything we can to help them find other employment.

Maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum in FS2 and Key Stage 1 is important to us and we will continue to deliver this to all our children.



We are proud of our wonderful, vibrant and talented children who are supported and guided by an amazing staff. We also really value the immense parental support for our children, staff and school community. Clearly these are challenging times but we hope that by working together we will be in the best position to weather the storm and continue to thrive and flourish.

Please feel free to share your feelings and concerns around this with your local MP or councillors. If you would like to discuss this with us do get in touch with Mrs Timbers.

Yours faithfully

Catherine Timbers  
Head teacher

Derek Grover  
Chair of Governors

