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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Crowther

17th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

School Funding

You have probably seen or read about the state of school funding recently with some news reports calling it a crisis. The Chair of Governors and I felt it important to write to let you know how these issues impact upon Myrtle Park Primary School.

The Government have changed the way that money will be allocated to schools, this is called the new National Funding Formula. The NFF aims to spread funds more fairly regardless of the school's location. Whilst, in principle, we agree that this is a fairer way to fund schools, it is very clear from our forecasts and other independent sources (see schoolcuts.org.uk for school by school views) that the Government does not have enough money in the system for this to happen without many schools losing out.

The amount that Myrtle Park will receive per pupil is forecast to reduce significantly - This means that in 2019/20 Myrtle park will see a £55,000 reduction on its current budget of £1,000,000 - that's around £250 per child. The institute for fiscal studies has recently reported that funding for schools has reduced by 8% since 2010 and the Government have been found to have misused statistics when they talk about "record funding levels" in schools with the national statistics office saying that the Government's claims around school funding were misleading as they included student loans for University and Private school tuition fees (both of which are not Government money spent on school education)

The school's costs are going up, at the same time: National Insurance and pension contributions have increased, utilities and services have all increased significantly. In 2019 school will be expected to find budgets to pay for services we currently get from the Local Authority at a very reasonable price - this could increase our costs further. The 3% pay increase mentioned in the news recently is an example where school has to find the first 1% of that pay rise (something not made clear by the Government announcement to the public). As you can appreciate the school is facing significant financial challenges as a result of this situation. We wanted to share this with you so that you can understand why things may change as a result and why some decisions made by school have to be made.

