

## A Joint Letter from the Head teachers of the Coastal Alliance Cooperative Trust

### School Funding



Dear parent or guardian,

You may have recently seen a number of stories in the press on the subject of school funding. There have been worrying headlines about possible cuts and we felt it important that we raise your general awareness of the changes to funding. Although the government's plans for changing funding for education does not directly affect all of our schools at the present time, senior managers in our schools may need to reassess funding allocations in the near future.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The senior leadership teams at our schools have been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made.

Our schools are not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. The National Audit Office estimate a £3 billion real terms cut across all phases and in all schools. This doesn't just affect us.

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However, with increasing costs placed onto all schools the new formula will not bring every school the benefits that we had hoped to see. As a local authority, Kent stands to gain from this funding formula but whilst some schools may receive more money, some will also receive less.

We will work hard to ensure that any cuts have the least possible impact on teaching. However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that difficult decisions may have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our best to prevent this.

Please be assured that we will take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. As the Coastal Alliance Cooperative Trust, we work closely together and provide support to each other, share facilities and have economies of scale by working together which help all of our schools and all of our children. However, this is undoubtedly becoming more challenging as time goes on.

We promise to let you know you in plenty of time if our budget means we will have to take a significant decision on staffing or educational activities.

Yours sincerely,

The head teachers of the Coastal Alliance Cooperative Trust

Mrs J. Ashley-Jones – Reculver Primary School  
Mrs E. Butcher – Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed Junior School  
Mr B. Cooper – Swalecille Primary School  
Ms D. Hines – Joy Lane Primary School  
Mrs H. Lambirth – Westmeads Community Infant School  
Mrs B. Lax – Herne Bay Infant School  
Mr R. McDonagh – Briary Primary School  
Mrs F. Nation – Herne Bay Junior School  
Dr. C. Owen – Herne Bay High School  
Mr M. Saunders – Herne Junior School  
Mrs J. Spinks – St. Alphege Infant School  
Mrs M. Steward – Whitstable Junior School  
Miss L. StJohn – Herne Infant School  
Mrs L. Thomas-Friend – Herne Infant School and St. Alphege Infant School  
Mr C. Wright – St. Mary's Primary School