

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL BUILDING FUND

As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the Building Fund. These contributions, whilst voluntary, remain an essential element of our income: without them, we would be unable to pay the 10% of the costs of any refurbishment or major repairs which all voluntary-aided schools have to find from their own private resources.

For the coming year, the Governing Body is requesting a contribution of £100 per family. We recognize this is more than double the contribution requested last year, and we are acutely aware of the continuing pressures on family budgets. We would prefer not to have to propose such an increase. The previous amount, however, has remained unchanged for at least the last twenty five years and the erosion of its real value has accelerated significantly over the past couple of years.

The same inflationary pressures have, of course, affected the School's wider finances. The funding we have received this year from the Local Authority under the National Funding Formula set by the Department for Education is just 1.27% higher than it was last year; the rate of inflation, however, has remained significantly higher than that.

For the first time in living memory, Governors have had to set a deficit budget: we have reached a point at which reductions in expenditure can no longer be made without seriously compromising the standard of educational provision – or even the fulfilment of our basic statutory obligations. Governors will continue to explore options for generating additional revenue, but these are inevitably limited by the layout and size of the School's premises and the overriding need to maintain them in a fit state for their essential daytime purpose.

Regrettably, this means that we remain dependent on your generosity. The contribution to the Building Fund is, of course, voluntary, but I hope you will see your way to paying it to ensure your children have a safe and comfortable environment in which to learn and develop.

Payments can be made via ParentPay, bank transfer or standing order and can be made by one payment of £100, £25 per quarter or £8.33 per month.

Please use the following details, quoting your child's name as a reference:

Sort Code: 16-01-09

Account Number: 00277054

Account Name: WRCDT St Monica's Palmers Green SBF

With thanks in anticipation and very best wishes.

Yours faithfully

JOHN FURLONG

Chair of Governing Body