



Crabtree Infants' School & Crabtree Junior School
Crabtree Lane
Harpenden
AL5 5PU

15 March 2013

Voluntary Contributions

Dear Parents & Carers,

During these difficult financial times budgets are being squeezed everywhere. In order to manage its own budget targets, our own local authority, HCC, has reduced the funds that it allocates to each school.

Although the financial provision for the education itself is largely protected, there is currently a "standstill budget", which means that there are no increases in line with inflation. In addition, the funding for "capital" (i.e. physical assets like buildings, boilers, playground equipment and computers) has been significantly reduced.

At the Crabtree schools, we are incredibly fortunate to have an excellent Parents Association (PA) that generates up to £30,000 each year through funds raised via events such as the Summer Fayre and the Fireworks Display.

However, there is a limit in any one year to how much funding the PA can generate for each of the schools.

In order for our schools to generate additional funding for important items, we would like to explore whether funds can be raised via voluntary contributions (VCs). This then potentially frees the PA to focus more of its monies on inspirational items that can enrich the curriculum.

You are probably aware that many local schools run VC schemes, so there are precedents here. There is absolutely no obligation to contribute and not doing so will in no way disadvantage your child. We are desperately keen for a Crabtree Schools' VC scheme to be truly that, i.e. voluntary for those that are able and wish to contribute. If we create a situation where parents and carers feel an obligation to contribute, then we will consider that we have failed.

So, after Easter, we will publish details on how to make voluntary contributions and how the scheme will be managed. Look out for further information soon.

If you have any concerns about this proposal, then please contact us via the e-mail addresses below.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours faithfully

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