



Dore Primary School

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Dear Parent or Carer,

For the last two years, following suggestions made by parents on the Governing Body and School Change Team, we have requested a standard contribution from parents towards the School Fund Pot at the beginning of the academic year in order to stop asking for small amounts of money to pay for extra events which enrich both the curriculum and your child's experience. Again, following suggestion by parents, we now collect this around half-term in order to avoid heavy costs that may occur in September for uniform, PE clothing and school equipment.

These opportunities and first hand experiences often bring a subject alive and quickly increase the understanding of the children, inspiring them and building lasting memories of the enjoyment of learning. **A School Fund Pot payment of £10.50 (50p to cover transaction fees) per child covers the cost of small collection amounts through the year to provide year group and whole school enrichment activities. This is now set up on Parent Pay for every child.**

The types of activities paid for out of this fund are theatre visits, actors, story-tellers, musicians, dance, puppets, cookery/healthy eating demonstrations, museum presentations, ingredients for cooking, local bus fares and other basic provisions to support an enriching activity. Last year there was equitable spending amongst year groups.

There are many benefits to a one off contribution, such as:

- **An enriched curriculum and experience**
- Additional opportunities that would otherwise be **unaffordable** and therefore not take place
- **Less fuss for parents in finding small amounts**
- Less administration for office staff – **we are now a CASH FREE school** and do not collect small cash amounts that are needed for this type of enrichment activity
- **A 'budget' which allows us to plan ahead selecting the best additions for your children**
- **Removing the chance that parent and children do not remember to pay the smaller amounts as they are 'up front' and a one off payment.**

Last year the shortfall of voluntary contributions meant that ALL summer term enrichment activities were funded by budget and this has had a knock-on effect for the current budget. The GB and SLT decided that activities should go ahead as many parents contributed, even though a significant number maybe forgot to pay or decided not to contribute. **The Pupil Premium contribution for children entitled to this funding pays into this School Fund Pot.** The budget and activities were set presuming a much higher parental contribution. It is unlikely that budget will be able to subsidise in 2014-2015.

We very much hope that more parents will be able to contribute to the School Fund this year so that we may continue with the planned additional opportunities.

Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Warm regards - Members of the Governing Body

