



**Burnham on Crouch
Primary School**
Connected to our world

13.3.17

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following Friday's newsletter briefly referring to the proposed national cuts and the potential implications for the school, Essex Primary Headteachers' Association has issued a letter to parents and carers to make you aware of the funding situation Essex schools are facing.

As seen in the local and national press, schools are facing huge financial pressures. 98% of schools are facing an 8% cut in funding in real terms by 2020 and the National Audit Office reports that this amounts to £399 loss for every primary school child. For a school of this size this means a loss of £168,000. This is not fair on our pupils, who deserve better. These cuts have been brought about by rising costs of National Insurance, increased pension and staffing costs, Apprenticeship Levy charges and rising costs for support services for schools; including those supporting our most vulnerable children and families. Unfortunately the proposed National Funding Formula will not address this lack of funding; in fact, many Essex schools will face further cuts.

We are concerned that the pressures on school budgets will start to have an impact on how well we are able to support our pupils with their education. With reduced funding there could be:

- Fewer teachers and support staff
- Less support for all children, including those with special educational needs
- The loss of extra-curricular activities and trips
- Full closure of the swimming pool

There is a national campaign running on Twitter *#whatwouldyoucut* which gives some examples of the cuts that schools might have to make. School leaders and governors will have to make difficult budget decisions and this campaign demonstrates exactly what is at stake. No one leading schools wants to take these difficult decisions but schools up and down the country are facing the same dilemma. We are asking the government, in the strongest possible terms, to "fund the 8% cut to school budgets."

92% of Essex Primary Schools have been judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. We all want this upward drive to continue to provide a first class education for all our children. Please join the campaign to support our schools and lobby as many people as possible, including your local MP, on behalf of all the pupils in our schools.

In the meantime this school will endeavour to make savings and continue to deliver the best possible education for your children. However, we feel that it is important to let you know just how bad the funding situation is. Your support as we continue with our campaign will be vital.

Should you wish to contact your MP

1. Go to the website '**MPs UK Parliament**' <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>
2. Go to the green box part way down the page that says '**Members of the House of Commons**'
3. Type in your **school postcode**
4. This will bring up your MP's details including their **email address**

Yours sincerely,

Kelly Stock

Headteacher

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