



Dear Parents,

Firstly, thank you all for the response to yesterday's non-uniform day. It was very humbling to see the contributions and we managed to raise the equivalent of approximately £500 worth of essentials for the School, which means our limited budget can go further in delivering the level of education we are accustomed to.

The non-uniform day also raised much awareness through the media. Please view last night's BBC South East Evening news (30/03/2017, Evening News, South East Today - BBC One) which will hopefully continue to build the ground swell of lobbying to local MPs and the Government.

Thank you to the parents, grandparents, staff and friends of St John's for attending the Parents Forum last night. For those unable to make the evening, here are the key facts to help understand the reality of the Education Funding Crisis and the impact on St John's:

- Our School faces a deficit in funding from this year which is growing to an estimated £78,500 in 2020, mainly due to Government Funding cuts.
- There is very limited scope to find expenditure efficiencies in the school running costs which are already well managed and controlled.
- If you want to secure the future of our School and maintain the high level of educational and extra curriculum opportunities our children currently benefit from, we must focus on additional revenue.
- We will keep you informed of how you can join the discussion including creative ways to close the deficit and how you can safeguard the future of St John's.

Without your support now, the reality is potentially shocking: for example no after school clubs, no mini-buses, no residential trips, no sporting events..... a less fun and less life enhancing place to be for our children.



East Sussex County Council  
**ST. JOHN'S C.E. (AIDED) SCHOOL**

School Lane  
St. John's  
CROWBOROUGH  
East Sussex  
TN6 1SD

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Headteacher: Laura Cooper  
Deputy Headteacher: Mark Pollard

School Funding continued..

A voluntary standing order scheme is already in place and we thank those who have already set this up, which contributes £2,000 per annum. Please either reconsider the amount that you already contribute or think hard about setting up a simple standing order and invest in your child's education.

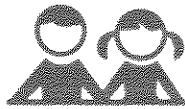
There is no minimum or maximum level of contribution, but bear in mind that if an average of £10 was set up each month for each child, then the £2,000 would grow to £25,000 a year and would make a significant difference to the crisis in funding we are facing right now.

Please have a look at the website - [www.schoolcuts.org.uk](http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk) which shows the funding cuts impact on every school.

I am also attaching the letter being sent from the majority of schools in East Sussex and a standing order form with supporting Gift Aid form (that can boost your contribution by 25% if you are a UK taxpayer).

Yours sincerely

Laura Cooper  
Headteacher



Dear Parent,

This letter is to update you on the next steps in the East Sussex Schools' Campaign to secure a better funding arrangement for our schools. We are very grateful for all the support shown by parents and appreciative of how many of you have written to your MP as a way of showing support.

The number of counties who are speaking with one voice has now risen to 14. This covers 3500 schools and 1.5 million students who will be disadvantaged through the changes proposed under the Funding Formula and increasing costs.

Our MPs have been supportive, they understand the issues our schools face and have been active in speaking to the Schools Minister and Secretary of State for Education. On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Prime Minister's Question Time saw school funding an issue of heated debate and on 29th march a report released by the cross-party Public Accounts Committee criticised "delusions" in government over the budget situation stating "*the biggest school funding shortages in England since the 1990s are threatening to damage standards*". The consultation on the Funding Formula has now closed and we wait the outcomes of that process.

In the meantime, we have been fortunate to work with the members of East Sussex Elected Council. Throughout this year, we have been raising the variety of pressures on school funding with the County Council. A group of primary and secondary Headteachers met with leaders of the Elected Council this week and discussed a range of these issues and the areas that lie within the remit of ESCC to assist. We are reassured that we speak with a common voice on this topic.

Members of the elected council will be seeking your support as local residents in their bid to be re-elected in May; we thought it might be useful for parents to have some key questions to ask or points to raise if you have the chance to engage with a local county councilor seeking your vote.

Parents may wish to:

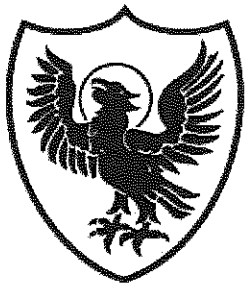
1. Ask prospective councilors how they will continue to work actively to secure sufficient funding from central government for East Sussex Schools *in real terms*, as promised in the manifesto.
2. Ask whether they would support offering maintained schools the same 80% reduction in the business rates afforded to academies, free schools and private schools operating as charities, as long as the money then stays within education.
3. Ask councilors to support the maintained schools and local academies in seeking sufficient funding for Special Educational Needs provision. This would ensure the funding for mainstream schools is not reduced to compensate for high levels of spend on Special Provision as it was in 2016-17.

We believe there is cross party support for sufficient school funding for East Sussex among the elected members but parents may wish to seek assurances that those seeking election will be actively pursuing this matter.

Yours sincerely

Laura Cooper

Headteacher



Headteacher: Laura Cooper  
Deputy Headteacher: Mark Pollard

Email: office@stjohnsprimary.org  
Website: www.stjohnsprimary.org

**Standing Order Mandate**

Please complete and return directly to your bank

To: The Manager

Bank Name:

Bank Address:

Account Number:

Account Name(s):

Please pay: Nat West Bank  
Crowborough Branch  
7 High Street, Crowborough  
East Sussex TN6 2PU

Account Name: St John's CE Primary School – Governors Account

Account Number: 60803975

Sort Code: 60-06-27

Amount:

Frequency:

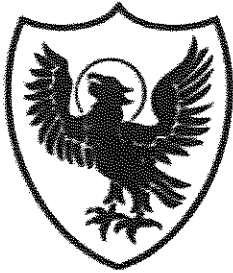
Start date:  End date:

Reference (Child's name):

Signature:

Date:





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**St John's School Governors Fund – Gift Aid Declaration Form**

Registered Charity No. : XN87573

*Please delete as appropriate:*

Please treat the enclosed gift of £  as a Gift Aid Donation; **OR**

All gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations; **OR**

All gifts of money that I have made in the past 6 years, and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.

**Please note:** In order to qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6<sup>th</sup> April one year - 5<sup>th</sup> April the next) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that St John's School Governors Fund will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year.

**Donor's Details:**

Title:	<input type="text"/>	Initial:	<input type="text"/>
Surname:	<input type="text"/>		
Home address:	<input type="text"/>		
		Post code:	<input type="text"/>
Signature:	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>

There are two main ways to donate:

1. By bank transfer – to make a one-off payment to the Governor's Fund bank account directly. Account Name: St John's CE Primary School – Governors Account, Account Number: 60803975 Sort Code: 60-06-27
2. By cash or cheque – please hand in to the School Office marked for the "Attention of the Chair to Governors".

Please notify St John's Primary School if you want to cancel this declaration, or if your name or home address changes, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

The Governors Fund will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you donate.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.