

North Primary School and Nursery
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Dear Parents and Carers,

This Autumn Term has begun like any other. Staff have worked hard over the summer and in their INSET days to prepare for the year ahead, ready to help every child be the best they can be and participate as fully as possible in every aspect of school life. New pupils have started, Year 6 have returned from Weymouth and routines are being established.

The positivity of the staff has been tempered by a significant problem that we and other schools' face. And that problem is future school funding.

When we set our next Budget in April 2019 we are looking at a predicted shortfall in funding of a sum in the region of £100 000. This is about 8% of our annual budget.* This is the shortfall figure even after we have made savings and also found ways to increase our income over the past year. We have also already reduced the wage bill by not replacing some members of staff who left last term.

Significant further savings are required. For this reason redundancy procedures have started amongst our learning support staff, which will take effect from May 2019. A process which is deeply upsetting for all our staff.

Governors are resolute in their belief that we do everything we can to minimise the number of redundancies and that we continue to provide a first class education for all at North. Governors and staff, through their professional associations and unions, will continue to lobby the local authority and government to address this issue.

Governors will also be seeking your views on how the school can retain its unique character in the current climate. You will also be asked if you think there are other ways parents could support the school. We know there is a very high level of parental confidence in the school, this support is needed now more than ever.

In the meantime please be assured that all the staff at North will continue to work tirelessly to enable your children to thrive.

Yours sincerely

Alan Garnett
Headteacher

Jan Blackwell
Chair of Governors

*In 2016, The National Audit Office issued a warning to Government that pressures on school budgets would lead to a real term shortfall of 8%.

