

## Questions

- 1) What activities/benefits will the children not now experience (which children have historically benefitted from at the school), in order to make cost savings? E.g. no swimming for infants?

Swimming was addressed in a letter that went out yesterday  
When looking at other enrichment activities, it is definitely our intention to provide as many as possible as we believe children do really benefit. However, it is essential that these activities are fully funded by parent contributions.

- 2) Have/will all services and resources be reviewed in terms of how cost effective, competitive and worthwhile they are? E.g. coaches, subscriptions, resources suppliers etc.. And will 3+ quotes be reviewed to ensure this?

The Governing Body have been working incredibly hard over a period of time to cut costs where ever possible but always try to do so in avoiding a detriment to the education provided for the children. 3 quotes are sought for all significant capital jobs to ensure best value is achieved. In making these decisions, we have to be wary of the impact on staff and the additional responsibilities that this can have on people who are already at maximum capacity.

- 3) Will you accept childcare vouchers for afterschool clubs? Many parents would be a lot happier to use these/pay for them if you did.

Definitely something we are happy to look into with September in mind but due to the time scale we are working from, this won't be possible for the Summer Term.

- 4) If we now have to pay for pre/after school clubs does this guarantee that they will take place and not be cancelled for meetings/training as they currently are?

Wherever possible we will work together to ensure all clubs run whenever possible. Clubs will not be cancelled when scheduled meetings or training is taking place.

- 5) As a church school, could the diocese provide more funding/less charges?

We are a voluntary controlled church school rather than a voluntary aided which means the church doesn't fund our school so unfortunately this isn't an option. The school doesn't incur any statutory charges from the Diocese in relation to its status as a church school.

- 6) Is it worth looking into the number of children in the village that have not been able to get a space at school? Also consideration to new housing being built?

When considering our school role and class structure, we have to consider class sizes and the impact this can have on the quality of education for all the children in that class. Children in catchment are always likely to get a place when they reach reception aged. The difficulty comes when children are older and year groups are already at full capacity. It is also worth noting that the Local Authority and not the school itself is in control of admissions.

- 7) Is it something that in the longer may lead to closure of the school?

No – but the funding consultation is making lots of schools think seriously about how they operate moving forward. Every school's biggest cost is staff but staff are also a school's greatest asset.

- 8) Even though Cambridgeshire will be receiving more funding through the Fairer Funding Formula, are 69 schools going to be worse off? How have they worked it out? And how do they expect any school to cope and absorb a £22,000 shortfall year or year without it hugely affecting the standards of education of offer?

The funding situation is very much out of our control and actually also out of the county's control. Factors such as results, deprivation and number on roll do affect a school's budget year on year. The greatest impact on Little Thetford though is a reduction in lump sum from 150k to 110k for all schools regardless of size.

- 9) Given the expected financial losses, the changes the governing body have proposed are very prudent but how long will those changes and savings be sufficient if this is going to be an on-going year on year loss?

As a governing body, we do need to look at this on a longer term and we are starting to do this. We are looking at options such as academisation but it is not at all clear whether this will actually save us money.

- 10) If goes without saying that providing a high standard of education is of primary importance but at the same time children hugely benefit from a wide range of enrichment activities. How many of these will no longer be possible? I was saddened when Forest School was no longer viable and rumour has it infants will not be partaking in much looked forward swimming lessons after Easter. What other activities are likely to be affected this and next academic year that have become a part of Little Thetford School life? How can parents help?

See Q 1 for answer + Forest School is something we are going to offer the children in the summer term but it will be termed 'Outdoor Learning'. We are very fortunate to have a kind family in the village who allow us to use their garden which will allow us to offer this in the summer term.

## Suggestions

- 1) A few parents we have canvassed have agreed that we would all be more than willing to make a regular 'fundraising contribution' to the school. For example a regular £20 a month per child/family sounds completely manageable. Of course we realise that this may not be the case for every family but for the majority to contribute would go a long way in meeting the shortfall you describe.

This is certainly something we would welcome and appreciate. It would have to be completely voluntary and confidential and not specifically for your child as it would go towards the running of the school as a whole.

- 2) Alternatively we would be more than happy to help set up a '100 club for Parents, Family and Friends' to raise regular and on-going funds for the school that would take very little time or effort on the part of the organisers or, most importantly, the parents.

Sounds like a great idea and appreciated. Though of course we would support this, we would need parents to volunteer, organise and run it.