



IMPORTANT MESSAGE - ALL PARENTS/CARERS EVENLODE P.S.

Friday 7TH April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sorry to have to write to you with bad news on the last day of term, but this week we have had to inform staff that we will be making compulsory redundancies for September.

We have received a cut to an already stretched budget at a time when general costs are rising and to avoid a deficit, we now have to make substantial savings. The only way to make these savings, is to look at staffing, which accounts for over 90% of the budget. We have cut all other expenditure to 'the bone' and we have allocated just £15k for teaching resources which equates to £33 per child. Yet again there is no money whatsoever for staff training.

Whilst teaching jobs are secure this year, support in the form of LSAs and lunchtime supervisors *will be dramatically reduced*. This will result in a reduction in the amount of support for Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing. It is also likely that trips will be severely curtailed and only emergency maintenance projects will be undertaken.

It would be easy to blame the Local Authority for the Funding shortfall, but The Vale is actually devoting more of its delegated funding to schools than Welsh Government is providing.

Due to the 'uneven' funding of schools across Wales, Evenlode receives between £64 and £725 less **per pupil** than the nine other schools in the *Family* with which it is compared. (These schools are in other Local Authorities.) Evenlode has traditionally been the lowest funded school in the Vale, so cuts are particularly badly felt.

Can I therefore ask you as parents to continue with your fantastic support, by ensuring that dinner money and Voluntary Contributions for trips are paid on time (The school now has responsibility for any shortfalls in the payment of dinner money.)

I want to reassure you that we will be doing everything we can to maintain the very high standards in the school, but as a Governing Body, we felt it important to inform you of the challenges ahead.

We are not the only school in the Vale, or indeed the Penarth Cluster to face financial challenges and all Governing bodies and Heads have written to the Leader of the Council, The Leader of the Consortium, AMs and MPs to make them aware of the situation. We are hoping for responses in the immediate future.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas or suggestions which you think might help, please get in touch. Have a relaxing Easter and thank you for your support.

Regards

Ceri Griffiths Chair of Governors