



September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure you are aware, schools face considerable financial difficulties and we are having to make some very tough decisions in order to continue to provide the exciting opportunities which your children benefit from during their time at Woodlands. Many important educational areas of school life are not otherwise provided for from our basic budget and although we have extremely generous support from the PTA, we are still struggling to maintain the wide provision which you and your children are used to and which we feel is vital to provide.

In order to help with this, many schools operate a school fund which supports the work of the school and the many activities which do not get direct funding from the Government or Local Authority. Earlier this year, we launched our own fund – *The Woodlands Fund* – it will be used to provide additional resources, activities and support for your children which are not funded directly. Examples could be:

- Curriculum Enrichment Weeks
- Visits and workshops by theatre, music and science groups
- Visits and workshops from authors
- Subsidies for trips, including transport subsidies
- Playground equipment
- Music and resources for shows, concerts and plays

Finally, and very importantly, the fund will help to finance 'The Henderson Fund'. This fund is to assist pupils from families experiencing extreme hardship in meeting **basic** costs - extra-curricular trips, music lessons or school books and equipment.

As a guide only, voluntary contributions to the Woodlands Fund of £20 per child per annum and then £10 each for other siblings would be greatly appreciated and allow us raise welcome funds. If you are able to donate a little more we would be very grateful. We completely understand if you are not in a position to donate. We have added Woodlands Fund into our ParentMail account to enable you to make your payment in the easiest and most familiar way. If you need any help to do this, the staff in the School Office are happy to help.

We do understand that you are asked to support so many causes in this difficult financial climate and we have thought long and hard about this before writing to you, but unfortunately we have little choice but to ask for your help. We would like to thank you for all the support which you already give. Every penny which is donated goes towards making Woodlands the best it can be for your children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Priestley
Headteacher

Mrs A Minton
Chair of Governors

