



July 2016

Dear Parents,

### **School Maintenance Fund for the School Year September 2016-July 2017**

Most parents decide to send their children to a Church of England school because they know that their child will be educated in a Christian environment and because they know that the school will provide an excellent education.

The quality of Church of England schools has also been recognised by the government and they have granted many of them 'voluntary aided' status. This means that, although the schools are in the state system, we can retain our traditions and organise the school on the basis of the teachings of the Church. In return, however, we are required by law to develop and maintain the school buildings and premises.

We have no choice in this matter. If we do not have enough money in our dedicated budget and bank account, work cannot be undertaken. The Governors therefore have to turn to the families at the school for voluntary donations to what we call the "Maintenance Fund" so that we can continue to provide the best possible teaching and learning environment.

There is an on-going requirement for repairs and improvement both to keep the buildings in good condition and to keep in line with current legislation. Parts of our school are quite old and will require future work or updates on a regular basis (for example, tarmac throughout the playgrounds and entrance ways to the site, ensuring reasonable steps are taken with regards to accessibility, window and door maintenance, plus of course, repairing or replacing toilets).

Having undertaken benchmarking research amongst other VA schools, the governors have decided to slightly increase the Maintenance Fund by £10 for the next academic year. This has not been increased in *at least* 14 years and we do hope that we have your understanding on this matter and appreciation that it has not been raised for a very long time.

*Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ*

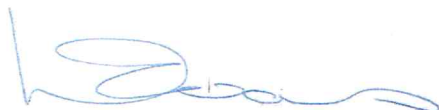
With all this in mind, the Governors are asking for a minimum parental contribution of **£60** per year for the first child and an additional **£30 per sibling** at the school. This works out at just over £1 a week for the year for one child.

The payment will become due at the start of the next academic year when we return to school on 5 September 2016.

Please send your contributions to the school office; payments may be made by cash or cheques payable to **St John's N20 MF** and may be made in a lump sum or instalments. We are also trialling an online payment system and if successful, you will be issued with information on how to create an account and be able to pay via that medium.

**The Governors would like to thank you all for your continued support.**

Kind regards



Mrs Lynne Evans  
Chair of Governors

*Nurture Encourage Challenge through Christ*