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Dear Parents

With the Summer BBQ approaching, I thought I would let all our children and parents know how FODS is organised and how their support is vital, in the current financial climate, for the school.

Firstly, the committee meets once a term in school with school staff and the Headteacher. They diarise forthcoming events at these meetings and outline support for school projects which come in the form of a 'wishlist'. The Headteacher then consults with school staff and presents to the committee areas where he feels FODS could help. This could be in the form of books for classrooms and the library; famous author visits; theatre visits etc.

The school's philosophy is **today's money for today's children**, however, there are occasions where FODS roll over funding and make large donations to help with ICT expenditure. This happened this year where FODS gave the school just over £5,000 to buy 16 new laptops. In an increasingly financially challenging era for our schools, fundraising is becoming increasingly more vital to support schools in order for them to deliver outstanding enriched learning opportunities for all children.

Our school has notable projects to fund, which, in an age of dwindling government support, will be challenging to achieve. As already publicised at the time of the school's 'Grow a Pound' initiative, the school needs to replace 16 computers in the ICT suite; 6 in the classrooms and the whole network to be moved to Windows 10 by 2018/19 academic year. This will cost £20,000. Our iPad capability needs to be increased and upgraded with Apple's new operating system (IOS11) approaching.

All the classrooms interactive white boards and projectors are over 7 years old and will need replacing, with new smart touch screen boards. Each cost £3,000 which means another £20,000. Finally the adventure playground area needs redeveloping which will cost approximately £6,000.

To put all this into perspective the school is given £6,000 a year to spend on school building repairs and computers. This 'devolved capital' is a safety net – an emergency fund. The current government intends to adjust funding for schools. Already Droxford's budget has been cut by £15,000 and with a proposed funding formula affecting all schools in 2019-20 our school is due to forfeit a further £59,000! Our school also needs to be full in order to bring in a maximum budget (each child is calculated as worth £3000 per year) – we still have places available next year!

We are mindful how much schooling costs parents. The need for creative fundraising initiatives and spreading our target audiences wider has never been in more need than it is now. Without wealthy donors or benefactors, we fully appreciate your support.

I am grateful to you for taking time to read this statement on our finances and the school budget. I hope it paints a real picture of the slim margins we are working to in education. Although the picture does look bleak in terms of the budgeting landscape, the governors, school leaders and FODS are determined to maintain our high standards of school experience and enjoyment for all our children.

With best wishes

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

