

20th September 2024

Wrotham School
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Headteacher
Michael Cater

Executive Headteacher
Matthew Wright

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Voluntary Fund

Since the cost of living crisis and the pandemic we had temporarily paused our Parent Voluntary Fund; this was due to it feeling inappropriate to be asking for donations over this challenging period.

Following some consideration, we have made the decision to reintroduce a system to allow voluntary donations from parents.

I need to be clear that this is a completely **voluntary** process for parents who are keen and able to support the school by donating money that will be spent **directly on the students**. You may have come across these funds before at your child's primary school. School Voluntary Funds are an important source of funds for making improvements to classroom resources and furniture and can allow the school to buy items that our annual budget would not cover.

As you will know from the general news and media in the last few years, school funding has not kept up with inflation or increased gas and electricity bills, this has meant tough decisions on spending and a squeeze on resources.

We are highly privileged to have our huge building project underway but this does not include furniture, books or IT equipment allowances, nor is this funding managed by the school.

We would like to be able to provide new furniture and resources for our new building by acquiring these over the next 2 years to take with us into the new classrooms.

Any donations received will be placed into a ring-fenced, protected budget that can only be spent on items to improve resources for students. This means the money is spent in classrooms or student used recreational areas. For example: tables, chairs, benches, library books, covered areas, sports equipment, visiting speakers etc. This budget will not be spent on staffing, staff benefits, utility bills or fee's. This money will also not be used as a hardship fund. To ensure this is spent correctly and as intended, this budget is externally audited.

As we are a registered charity we can also offer 'gift aid' which means that donations can be exempt from tax. You can add gift aid to your donation by completing the attached form.

To make this process easier we have added a range of donation amounts on Scopay which will allow parents to make donations straight from the bank.

Donations start at **£10** and are also available in increments of **£20, £50, £100, £200 and £500.**

If you would rather make a cash donation or a larger donation than £500, please contact our finance office directly on finance@wrotham.kent.sch.uk

We will update you regularly on how this money is being spent to benefit the children at the school.

I would like to repeat the voluntary nature of this fund and thank you all in advance for your continued support of the school.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Cater', is positioned above the typed name.

Mr M Cater
Headteacher