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Re-launch of the Sheen Mount 'School Fund'

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Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share an important initiative with you that aims to enrich our school community and enhance the learning environment for our children.

At Sheen Mount, we are committed to providing our children with the best educational experience possible. This includes facilities, educational resources, and extracurricular activities that contribute to the overall development of our students. However, as with many educational institutions, we face budgetary constraints that limit our ability to maintain, update and enhance these crucial services and improvements.

We are reaching out to our school community for support. We are initiating a voluntary donation drive named the 'school fund' to help bolster our school funds and the trustees of this fund will manage this. Your generous contributions will directly impact daily school life - maintaining and improving our school estate and buildings to continue to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment.

Specific items this includes:

- front gate security improvements
- studio hall- structure and flooring
- roofing and guttering repair work
- increased utility bills, and unfortunately with the realisation that our relatively newer education blocks (Reception and Y3/4) were not efficient, well thought out builds. The heating system and general temperature control of the buildings needs addressing.
- a new IT system server
- annual maintenance and upkeep of all the trees

We aim to spend a minimum of 20% of this fund on aspects that directly enhance the children's education. Once we have the above site maintenance issues in hand, we anticipate this percentage rising significantly.

We have just allocated to spend the remainder of the existing school funds supporting a much needed wifi update and repair of the reception block heating. We were very fortunate to have this money thanks to a generous one off donation and sponsorship money collected for the new sports kits. The grant funding for the toilets was a one off from the borough due to the poor condition of them. This was means tested against other schools and we will continue to bid for these opportunities in the future.

No contribution is too small, and every donation will make a significant difference. We understand that not all families may be in a position to contribute financially, and we want to emphasize that participation in this donation drive is entirely voluntary.

We deeply appreciate the many ways parents and carers support our school community. Whether this is through volunteering time, sharing expertise, or simply being involved in your child's education.

Financial request amount

We are suggesting £30 a term, which is £90 a year, which in turn equates to £2.50 a week-less than a cup of coffee!

You can set this up via direct debit in one easy click or you can also pay in one off amounts. With direct debit, the default is monthly, but you can change it to quarterly, half yearly or yearly. Please remember to tick gift aid if you are eligible.

If we raise £90 a year across 75% of our 600 children on roll, this brings us £40,000.

If you wish to contribute more we would be very grateful-
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8753#!/DonationDetails>

Q&A

Who are the trustees?

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, School Business Manager, Chair of Governors and a current parent-we aim for them not to be a current governor. It is currently Tilly Walters, who is a year 5 parent.

How will this fund differ to the PSA?

This fund will focus on aspects outlined above. The PSA will be there to have a direct impact on the children's education and enrichment at school. We will still absolutely need to raise the money from the PSA and we anticipate always needing that moving forward. There will never be a crossover between the two fundraising pots.

What has the school done to try and mitigate the falling real amounts from Government?

The school has worked very hard to maximise its funding streams. We currently generate a significant amount from lettings- totalling over £200k annually. Income from leasing the swimming pool, wrap around care, external clubs, internal clubs after school (staff do not get paid for running them) and weekend lettings contribute to this amount.

Why is the school asking for the money now as opposed to in the past?

As with all maintained schools, we face the challenge that the gap between Government funds and our running costs continues to widen.

This article sums up the current picture-

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2025/jan/08/schools-england-cuts-rising-costs-funding>

Every pound we spend is weighed up against its effectiveness of delivering for our children.

Spend on staffing will always be our priority.

However, this then leaves us with the three large buildings-Reception, Y3/4 and the main building (Y1/2 & Y5/6) and the significant outside space with minimal financial resources for maintenance or futureproofing.

The trustees will always be transparent about the amount of funds raised and the allocation. This will be at least annually, but more frequently if we get in to the fortunate position of making faster progress down our enhancement list!

Together, we can continue to make Sheen Mount a place where every child thrives. Thank you for considering our request and for your ongoing support.

Best wishes



Tom Holmes
Headteacher