Wednesday 17 May 2017

**Funding in school**

Dear parents and carers

You may have seen a number of stories in the media recently, and will continue to do so with an upcoming general election, around school funding and budgets. There have been concerning headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this might affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The leadership team and governors at Curbar discuss and review funding regularly and have set the budget for the academic year 2017-18. There are increasing restraints and limitations on our funding and it would appear that this trend will continue.

Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. The National Audit Office estimate a £3 billion real terms cut across all phases and in all schools. It is clear that this doesn’t just affect us and is significant.

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However, with increasing costs placed onto all schools the new formula will not necessarily bring the benefits that we had hoped to see. The School Cuts website, analysing DfE data, projects that schools in our local authority will lose on average £419 per pupil\*([**schoolcuts.org.uk**](http://schoolcuts.org.uk))with the newly proposed funding formula.

At this stage we would like to reassure you that we are aware of the situation and will strive to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching and learning as possible. However, rising costs and a ‘frozen’ budget means that some difficult decisions may have to be considered.

However, please be assured that we take the upmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on our children.

Yours sincerely

Mr Simon Beahan and the Governors of Curbar Primary School