



January 2021

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Dear Parents/Carers

It's that time of year again, when we remind parents about the School Fund. We are incredibly grateful that a large number of parents and carers support the school with a monthly or annual contribution.

This year parental contributions to the school fund have generated £20,000 for the school. This money has been more vital than ever. In particular this year we have been able to use the money to focus on the IT requirements of online learning, allowing us to upgrade switches to be able to cope with the large volume of video. We've purchased cameras, laptops, parents evening software and software to support seating plans. These are all things we couldn't do without your support and have been vital in the current circumstances – thank you!

You may have seen in the news that education funding is a priority for the new government. We are one of the schools who have benefited from the new minimum funding guarantee. This year has however been very difficult as we lost a significant amount of revenue from the closure of the sports centre, from lettings and loss of income from the canteen. We've also experienced rising costs in relation to enhanced cleaning, staff cover caused by isolations and site changes. We have some small savings in exams and energy but these come nowhere near covering other costs and falling revenue. This has been extremely frustrating as we had hoped this year may have allowed us to begin to restore some of the cuts from austerity but we believe that next year will be a more positive picture. We also have an ambition to kit out our new replacement block with furniture, fittings and IT and have set the PTA a target of £40,000 which will of course be supported by the school fund.

We are very proud of our students and the success they achieve. These are standards that we are committed to maintaining and we appreciate your support. **For each family, the school is asking for a voluntary £60 annual donation. This can be paid either as a one off annual payment or through a monthly direct debit for £5.** If you already have a direct debit set up, then thank you; this will continue to run as normal. Of course, should you feel able to donate more, then you would not be limited to this amount, and equally we will be grateful for whatever help you are able to give us. We absolutely understand that some of our families have had an extremely difficult year and this sort of request is simply out of the question.

**We want to make this as easy as possible, so we have created an Edgbarrow page on the Justgiving website: <https://www.justgiving.com/edgbarrowschool/>.** You can choose to donate through a one-off payment or to make a monthly donation. There is also a link on the school website. **We would be very grateful if you could also tick the relevant box to add Gift Aid.** Money can also be donated through the Tucasi online payment system, but we are unable to claim Gift Aid on money donated this way. Our thanks for those that are already signed up to the monthly donation.

We would also ask if you, as parents/carers, could investigate whether your employer has funds available to support schools and would be grateful for any information in relation to this.

Our priority is the education of your children and to support this we are hoping that, where possible, our fantastic parent body may be able to make a further contribution to maintaining our high standards.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Matthews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mr S Matthews**  
**Headteacher**