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Headteacher
Mrs L Mathie
BA (Q.T.S.)
N.P.Q.H.
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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the start of the new academic year at Battling Brook, we hope that your child has enjoyed their first few weeks and are settling back into school routine.

During the academic year, we plan visits and theme days to enhance and support your child's learning experience. Our staff work hard to plan these events to bring learning to life but **schools do not receive funding to enable such activities**. I am sure that you are aware from the media that many schools are experiencing difficulties with current funding. However, we believe that trips are invaluable to our pupils and their education. Obviously, as a school, we would love to cover the cost of all activities but unfortunately, this is not possible and we therefore need the support of parents.

There are also some misunderstandings surrounding schools charging for such items which I would like to address. Schools are not allowed to make a profit on any trips/theme days, if this were to happen, a refund would be issued to parents and we are not allowed to charge parents for the adults that are in attendance. We are regularly audited by an external agency to ensure that we adhere to these rules.

When planning a new trip (often 6-9 months in advance), the costings are based on all children within the year group attending, we cannot charge extra in case some children do not attend and all children must be given the option to participate. Therefore, should any parents choose not to pay, the cost must be covered by the school. Ultimately, this affects the money available to the school for staffing, resources and facilities.

All school time activities are based on a voluntary contribution but if we do not receive sufficient contributions from parents, then the event will need to be cancelled. Should this happen for any given trip/theme day, we may have to cancel the remaining activities for the rest of the academic year for that year group to minimise the financial loss to the school.

You will be sent information a few weeks before any event/trip to provide information such as the date, when/where it will take place and the contribution that is being requested. We will also send reminders to parents where payment has not been received as we are aware that we all lead busy lives and sometimes these things can be overlooked. If you are unable to make your contribution,

'Equality, Active Learning, Community, Health & Happiness'



Email: office@battlingbrook.uk Website: www.bbroad.leics.sch.uk

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please contact the school office as soon as possible. This will ensure that no further reminders are sent and also allow the school to make the decision as to whether the trip is still financially viable. For the benefit of all, we have made the decision to outline the intended costs for such activities at the start of each year to allow parents sufficient time to plan for these rather than be caught unaware by unknown costs. Teachers are currently busy planning and contacting potential venues and as soon as they have been confirmed, we will write home and share the details.

We appreciate that some of our families may be experiencing financial hardship or a change in personal circumstance which may result in them being unable to contribute. If this is the case, you may be entitled to Pupil Premium (Free School Meals) which is funding provided by the government to schools to allow us to support costs such as this and to help with the cost of uniform. The school office are able to run a quick check to give you an immediate answer, all we need is your date of birth and National Insurance number to check eligibility.

Finally, if parents regularly do not contribute towards the cost of trips/theme days or are often late in making payments for any item in school, we may not be able to offer their child a place on a school residential trip as these require prompt and regular payments. Failure to make payments on time can affect our group booking and we do not feel that the whole booking should be jeopardised for one or two individuals.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our parents who always support the school and understand the importance of us working together for the benefit of the children and our wider community.

Kind regards

Mrs Mathie

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