

Dear Parents/Carers,

17th March 2010

Riverside Voluntary Fund

As you may know, Riverside is funded by the Local Authority but the budget does not cover many extras in class or school trips so we ask for voluntary contributions to our School Fund to provide these. No child or young person is excluded from these extras or activities if parents/carers are unable to pay. However, we need to review what extras can be provided if we do not receive a high enough level of income.

We are aware that you may regularly be paying for dinner money; after school clubs; snacks/cookery; local excursions; trips; Woodlodge. We would like to simplify the process for you and reduce the amount of cash handling in school. We are therefore looking into providing a parent payment system where payments could be made by debit card or by direct debit on a termly or regular basis. This would also enable us to benefit from the Gift Aid system where we can enhance school income by reclaiming the basic tax rate paid on your contributions.

We would like to introduce an annual, termly or half-termly contribution which will reduce the need for you to be finding cash each week. Families that prefer to pay more regularly will still be able to do so. Separate contributions will still be requested for specific trips or Woodlodge.

Our young people in KS4 and 6th Form develop their independent living skills by cooking a meal each week. On that day parents do not pay for their school meal and a similar amount is needed to cover the cost of ingredients. This leads to a higher contribution from parents of young people in KS4/6th Form.

Given below is a schedule of the regular charges that we will be requesting and which could be paid annually/termly or half termly:

	Primary/Beckenham/Seniors			KS4/6 th Form		
	Annually	Termly	Half termly	Annually	Termly	Half termly
Snacks/drinks/local excursions	£42	£14	£7	£135	£45	£22.50
Dinner money	£342	£114	£57	£273.60	£91.20	£45.60

We would like to elicit parents' views on this annual, termly or half-termly payment system using direct debit or debit card. Please complete and return the attached slip to register your interest in this scheme.

Improvements in Communication

We regularly receive information that may be of interest to parents. We post much of this on our website. We also circulate other information by sending letters home in the children's home-school books.. In an effort to move to a more sustainable means of communication, we would like to introduce an e-mail/text service to enable us to pass on information to you.

Again, could you please complete and return the attached slip to enable us to proceed with these initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Crane
School Business Manager

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Pupils Name _____ Class _____

I would be interested in paying contributions by a direct debit YES/NO

I would be interested in paying contributions by debit card YES/NO

If Yes, would you prefer to pay annually, termly or half-termly (please ring your preferred method)

I am willing to complete a gift aid form. YES/NO

I am contactable via text or email, and provide the number/email address below.

Signed _____ Print Name _____

Date _____