



Head of School: Miss Tara Penny
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Underwood



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



27th November 2020

Dear Parent(s) / Carer / Guardian

Within the Three Hares, we focus on providing local children with the best possible start in life, both from an academic and lifestyle perspective, to ensure that they are all given the tools and resources they need to be prepared to move into further education and their future workplace as well-rounded, skilled, confident and unique individuals. Our hope is that, as a result, they will grow up and continue to contribute to our community as adults.

As you may already know, government funding for schools has been substantially reduced over the years, to the point that our schools are now spending up to 90% of their budget on staff alone. Historically, a school would have expected to spend up to 75% of its budget on staff. This is not bad budgeting on the part of the schools – it is the sad truth of the public purse, and the cuts that have been made in education.

As a result of these cuts, it has become apparent that the schools are unable to provide the resources that all of us - parents, grandparents, community members or parishioners – might hope for. Specifically at Chagford, there is great potential for more outdoor learning possibilities, and a desire for improved IT-based learning and additional curriculum resources, all required to enrich our children's overall learning experience as well as support their health and well-being in more elaborate and innovative ways, taking advantage of our incredible location. But, of course, all of this costs money!

We have therefore had to think creatively about other ways of providing additional funding for the schools, and one of those ways is to ask you, the parents, carers or guardians, to help *if you can*. If you are able and willing, we would like to ask you to consider making either a regular monthly donation or a one-off donation.

The school has created an aspirational wish list, separated into several categories, which explains what it needs or would like, and why. We have also devised a major "legacy project" to develop the grounds of the school, creating an outdoor learning and environmental area to support and enrich our children's physical and mental well-being. All of this information can be found at <https://www.chagford-primaryschool.org/fundraising.html>. Please do have a look!

In addition to our fundraising website and in collaboration with the PTFA, we have also created an Amazon Wish List, which has been populated by the staff of the school, with all sorts of things to support and enhance teaching and learning. This will be updated regularly and ranges from the smallest of items to much bigger aspirational items. Whilst we recognise the obvious convenience and vast range of Amazon, we also acknowledge the importance of supporting our local community. Therefore, if there are any items on the Wish List that you would like to source locally, please feel free to do so. We kindly ask that, if you do this, you let the school know by emailing admin@chagford-primary.devon.sch.uk so that the items can be removed from the Wish List. Wherever feasible, please be assured that the school will endeavour to use monies raised to



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make purchases locally and use local businesses and trades. The link to the [Amazon Wish List](#) can be found on our fundraising home page.

ANY improvements we are able to make to the school enriches the children's school experience, and adds value to the school environment, making them attractive to potential new pupils and families. In turn, this generates additional funding for the school – the amount of funding the school receives from the government is dependent on the number of pupils. So the more pupils that are attracted to the school, the better funded it becomes.

The school's leadership and staff are also eager to forge stronger relationships between the school and local communities and would love to hear from you with any ideas you may have about ways we might do this together. Our wish is to create a school where the saying "It takes a community to raise a child" really holds true.

Finally, it is really important that we stress that we appreciate that many families will not be in a position to offer anything, and we completely understand that. We would **never** ask or expect you to put yourselves under any kind of strain to contribute.

Many thanks for your time. If you have any queries, please contact Mel Holyoak E: mholyoak@dartmoormat.org.uk or Elizabeth Underwood eunderwood@threehares.org.uk.

Yours gratefully

EMMA NEATH & MEL HOLYOAK
Chair & Vice Chair of the Three Hares Local Academy Committee