



Monday 2nd September 2024

Dear Families,

Securing the best educational experiences for your child

Education at our school is free, funded by the public sector. However, as you will no doubt be aware, government funding is insufficient to maintain the staffing levels, quality of premises and school resources that a school such as The Vineyard would like. We aim to offer our pupils a rich curriculum, enhanced by trips and workshops; specialist teachers for music, PE and French; additional adults available to support teaching and learning in the younger years and well-stocked resources, such as stationery, high quality texts, art and design technology consumables. This quality of education is not possible on government funding alone.

We, like many schools, do raise money from our community and events. At The Vineyard, there are three organisations within the school that may approach you for financial contributions or donations.

The School

In order to provide this rich, stimulating curriculum that our pupils deserve, The Vineyard supplements its core teaching by a number of trips and visiting speakers or activities. These activities are an addition to the school's core offering and cannot take place without parental contributions. The school's funding does not cover these events, which are much enjoyed by the pupils. We ask families to contribute to these costs in one payment of around £100 per child made at the start of the school year or, if requested, this payment can be made in three instalments made at the beginning of each term. If insufficient money is raised, we will have to reduce the number of trips or activities that we can offer for that class or year-group. These activities will include at least one workshop or trip per whole term and resourcing for a range of curriculum topics that require extra resources (e.g. cooking, art, D&T). Pupil Premium children are exempt from this payment. The exceptions to this one-off payment is for residential trips in Year 5 & 6 and swimming lessons in Year 4, which will be charged separately. Please also note that this payment does not include raising money for charities.

Following positive feedback from the parent survey, we are continuing to ask for this contribution to be paid, so that we hope that we won't be asking for any other forms of money for these activities across the school year. This payment will be added to your Schoolmoney account.

Friends of the Vineyard (FoV)

The school set up this charity over 20 years ago to enable parents to support the school financially in a tax-efficient manner. If you are a UK tax-payer, for every £10 donated to the school, the school can receive £12.50. Payments can be made to this charity at any time and details are available on the school website or following this link: [School Fund - The Vineyard School](#).

These payments are used to support purchases for the school's libraries, pupils' art materials, sports equipment, IT and many other things, as well as contributing towards our longer-term projects. We are currently investigating the ability to use the school field all year round by turning part of it into a multi-use games area. All these areas will enhance your child's school experience. The Friends of the Vineyard is an important source of funds for the school.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Every family is welcomed to the PTA when their child joins the school. The PTA supports the school by running a number of social and community events throughout the school year. Some of these events are purely social and some have more of an emphasis on fund-raising for the school. The PTA helps build the school community which is something our pupils, families and staff really appreciate. Please support our PTA by joining our school events, volunteering to be your child's class rep and perhaps being part of the PTA committee.

We really appreciate your support to help us give your child the best education possible. If you have significant concerns regarding the education sector funding, we would separately encourage you to write to your MP.

Warm wishes,

Handwritten signatures of Frances Bracegirdle and Antony Cook in blue ink.

Frances Bracegirdle & Antony Cook

Headteacher & Chair of Governors