



Dear Mr Rawcliffe,

Thank you for your understanding of our current situation and your offer to explore avenues of funding support. As you are aware, the curriculum has changed significantly and as a school we continuously strive to meet the demands of the curriculum and the needs of our pupils.

A key element to the Curriculum for Wales is creating opportunities for Authentic and Purposeful learning. *“Learning is most effective when learners are actively engaged in experiences that stimulate their interest, ignite imagination, inspire curiosity and promote positive dispositions. These experiences should encourage learners to investigate, explore, create and be active participants in their learning. Relevant and meaningful experiences that are rooted in real-life contexts will enable learners to make connections, apply knowledge and consolidate skills.”* (Curriculum for Wales, 2022).

At St. Illtyd's Primary, part of our school motto is to 'enrich' the lives of our pupils. We take great strength from our local community and embrace learning opportunities on our doorstep including the Miners Institute, Granny's Wood, the 5G at Ebbw Vale, local shops and the train station. However, we also want to give our pupils experiences of life outside of the village and so we have always tried to incorporate visits to places of work, the beach, residential trips, visits to our Capital City and even opportunities to visit the Science Museum in London. This year, we find ourselves like many other schools in a significant deficit budget. We have lost staff members due to redundancy and had to cut all non-essential costs.

In previous years, our pupil deprivation grant has been used to subsidise the cost to families and have enabled us to provide our pupils with these immersive opportunities. Last year, we spent approximately £3,800 on buses. This year, the grant funding has been reduced by £19,000. This has had a significant impact on provision and resources. Our pupil numbers have also increased and we will not be in a position to subsidise any travel expenses or entry costs for the year 2024-2025.

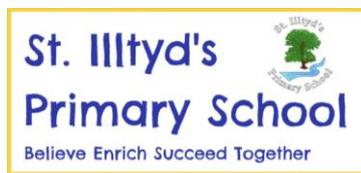
To give you an idea of the current costs we are facing,

The bus trip to London for the summer term will cost approximately £850

A bus to Cardiff costs approximately £250 per class

A bus to Abertillery is £50 per class.

We aim to get to a position where all learners get to take part in one immersion experience/visit per term. This would include two local and one further afield. This would work out at an



average cost of £400 per class, per year on transport alone for the bare minimum of visits. This works out at approximately £18 per family, per year on transport alone. This is not including other visits such as swimming (£1.50 per week x 1 term) and sporting events.

As you can imagine, we are working extensively to support our families with inclusion being a key priority for our school. Any financial support you could offer would be most gratefully appreciated and most carefully spent to provide the best value for money.

We would also love to pursue negotiations with the rail company to be considered for railcards for our school. As the train is on our doorstep, this would be a fantastic resource but current prices outweigh those of buses. Any help or advice you can offer on this would also be well received!

Kindest regards,
The Team at St.Illtyd's Primary School