



From the Chair of Governors

4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

ANNUAL SCHOOL MAINTENANCE FUND APPEAL

Once again, I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Board, to ask for your help in ensuring that our school buildings continue to be safe, secure, well-maintained spaces in which your children can learn and play.

Unlike state schools, Church of England schools are required to pay 10% towards the cost of any necessary building or maintenance work. At St Andrew's, the governors have a School Maintenance Fund, which helps to ensure that we can meet our obligations and keep our school buildings repaired and, where necessary, renewed or replaced. The Governing Board uses this fund to pay into an insurance scheme managed by the Diocese of London, which, in turn, covers the cost of repairs. From time to time, they may also use this fund for other purposes that directly benefit the school.

In recent years, many improvements and repairs to our buildings have been covered by the scheme, for example, the installation of low energy lighting upstairs and in the main offices. We are also insured against large-scale damage, such as major repairs or replacements.

We know that the current financial situation continues to be challenging for everyone. The school budget is also being squeezed from all sides. That is why we need your help once again this year. **We are asking each family, if they can, to contribute at least £35 per child, per year, towards this vital insurance.** If you are able to contribute more than £35 per child, the governors would be particularly grateful. Whatever you can afford to give, every penny helps to support your child's education.

This contribution can be paid via your child's ParentPay account. Payment may be made in instalments if that is easier (either weekly/ monthly, or termly, with a minimum payment of £5 per child).

If you are a UK taxpayer, it would greatly help the school if contributions were made under the Gift Aid Scheme, where we can reclaim tax on your contributions at no extra cost to you (currently worth an extra £8.75 for each £35 you give). If you wish to participate in the Gift Aid Scheme (and have not already done so), please ask the School Office for a Gift Aid form. If you have completed a Gift Aid form in the past, there is no need to complete another one.

If you have any queries about ParentPay, the Maintenance Fund, or Gift Aid, please enquire at the School Office. The Maintenance Fund relies entirely on the contributions of those, like you, who have chosen to send their children to St Andrew's, so please support the school if you can. Your children benefit directly from having warm, safe, well-maintained school buildings, so thank you in advance for your contribution – it really is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Theresa Davis

Chair of Governors

With God's love, we live, learn and grow together