



## Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School

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December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### Supporting the Voluntary Fund

New parents often comment on the wide range of facilities the children enjoy here and, as you know, many of these extras are provided by our Voluntary Fund. So we would like to give you an update on its activities and ask for your continued support this year.

#### What does the Voluntary Fund do?

*The Voluntary Fund provides educational and additional resources which cannot be met by the main school budget.* The fund has no local authority support and relies solely on donations from parents. When these individual donations are pooled together, the Fund can purchase resources that make a huge difference.

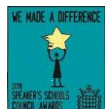
#### Recently, the fund has helped the children by providing:

- An ongoing supply of **free fruit** for all children which is fresh, varied and sourced from a local supplier. The children enthusiastically eat their fruit at snack time and having free fruit encourages healthy eating. The enormous uptake by the children means that the school needs your help to keep this initiative running!
- Additional **Spellcheckers** to help children in KS2 develop the ability to check and correct their spelling independently and accurately. They are of particular help to those children with dyslexia.
- **Funds to purchase books by popular authors** to encourage children to extend their vocabulary and understanding, and to buy **SEN reading books** to ensure the reading scheme is accessible to all.
- **Additional Bee Bots Floor Robots (computer equipment)** for Key Stage 1 and Early Years. These introduce the children to the essential skill of coding and creating short coding sequences.
- **Pro Bot Floor Robot class bundles** for our KS2 children to develop their IT skills (such as inputting codes and debugging programmes) and support them in both their maths and art curriculum.
- **Annual scooter training** for Year 1 children (Feb 2018). They enjoy themselves immensely learning how to be safe, 'pavement polite' and are introduced to some basic Highway Code.
- **The Peer Massage Project.** This initiative taught children the benefits of positive touch, developing trust and respect for others, building positive relationships and helped them to relax and cope with anxiety and stress. The children who benefited are now using their skills to help others.

Continued ...



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- **An Emotional Resilience Programme**, which helps older children to develop resilience and encourage self-confidence before they move on to high school.

### So how can you help this year?

We aim to continue with these initiatives, as well as introducing new ones. **That's why we're asking every family to donate now** – and the more you give, the more opportunities we are able to provide for your child.

\*\*\*What's more, if you are a UK taxpayer, the Fund can claim **an extra 25%** on every eligible donation – and at **no additional cost to you**. Simply ensure you complete the Gift Aid section when you donate.\*\*\*

### How to donate

We are asking every family to donate **£39** this year (that's just £1 for each week in school). However, we understand the financial constraints on many families, and any donation, no matter how small would be greatly appreciated. And if every family donates what they can, the Fund can do so much more for the children.

To make it as easy and convenient for you as possible, either:

- have your bank details to hand and [donate online](#) (click the Donate button) and pay by direct debit, or
- **complete the attached form** and return it with your cash/cheque (made payable to **Voluntary Fund for Grand Avenue**) to the School Office, in an envelope marked "Voluntary Fund".

You can choose to donate as a one-off payment or set up a regular direct debit. And of course, the sooner your donation is received, the sooner we can use the funds to benefit the children.

**Thank you for supporting the school.** The Governors, staff, and most importantly, the children are very grateful.

Yours sincerely

**Margaret Barrington**  
Headteacher

**Erik Boesten**  
Chair of Trustees – Voluntary Fund

PS Do please ensure you **sign up for Gift Aid** if you are a UK taxpayer. Remember the Fund will receive an additional 25% on any sum you donate, that's **£48.75 for every donation of £39** - and at no additional cost to you! Thank you.



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