



Ashmore Crescent, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4DG

Telephone: 01202 677870

Website: [www.hamworthyparkjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.hamworthyparkjuniorschool.co.uk)

Email: [office@hpj.poole.sch.uk](mailto:office@hpj.poole.sch.uk)



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### **Year 6 activity Week**

Firstly, thank you to all who have already paid for the High Ropes and other activities for the Year 6 Activity week. Sadly, to date, we have not received a significant amount of contributions that enables us to facilitate the programme of activities during this week.

Hopefully you are aware that school funding remains a nationwide cause for concern. Sadly, for the last few years although school funding has not been cut, our revenue has not matched the constant increase in costs. Therefore, all schools have had to make hard decisions that ultimately has impacted on the delivery of the education for our children. Schools have had to restructure, cut back on their resources, reduce their curriculum offer and diminish extra curriculum trips and visits.

Therefore, schools are faced with the hard choice of cutting back completely or carefully managing the expectation and contribution placed on parents. As a school we are very aware of this and I have challenged our teaching teams to try to manage this throughout the year. We are even careful in how we plan our charity events and attempt to ensure that any financial obligation is pre-planned.

I am very proud that the school has largely bucked that trend and unlike many other schools we still offer a myriad of free activities and after school clubs at minimal cost. I am aware that despite advice from their unions in relation to work life balance all our staff willingly take on extra responsibilities and provide our children with opportunities beyond the curriculum.

Any requests for contributions are simply an attempt to cover costs and the school never makes profit from any activity. Sadly, as the year has progressed we have suffered from decreasing returns and find ourselves having to increasingly cover the costs of any extracurricular event. The harsh reality is that we no longer have the funds to cover these events.

I am aware there has been some considerable conversations relating to this being placed on social media and I would like to thank the significant amount of you who are aware of the pressures we face and who always jump to our defence. However, it is important that we do listen to constructive feedback as that always helps us shape the service we provide to you all. So if you are ever concerned about any action the school initiates you are always welcome to come ask the rationale for the decisions we make. It is always important that the understanding and trust between school and the families we serve remains strong at all times.

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*Every Child, Every Day, Every Possibility*

Hamworthy Park Junior School is proud to be part of the Hillary Partnership and the Hamwic Education Trust



Obviously, if the current situation does not change, we will be unable to lead activity week, as planned and the children, will instead, have to engage in activities that will not reflect the experiences that their peers will experience at Black Rock.

**The school will make a decision on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July as to whether to cancel this Activity Week. Please contact the school office, in confidence, if you have a problem with paying via Parentmail, or paying the full amount.**

Thank for your understanding

Kind regards

Mr D Hewitt and the Year 6 Team