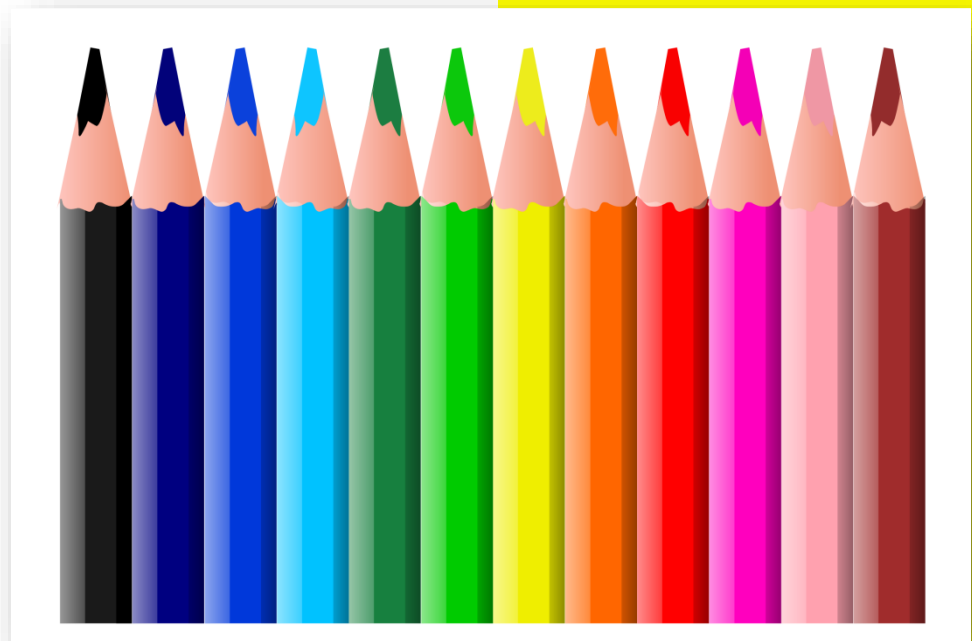


Important financial information for Parents



This report is about the financial difficulties faced by schools, and what you can do to help us to continue to give your child a world class education

Link to 30 second survey included

July 2019

Important financial information for Parents

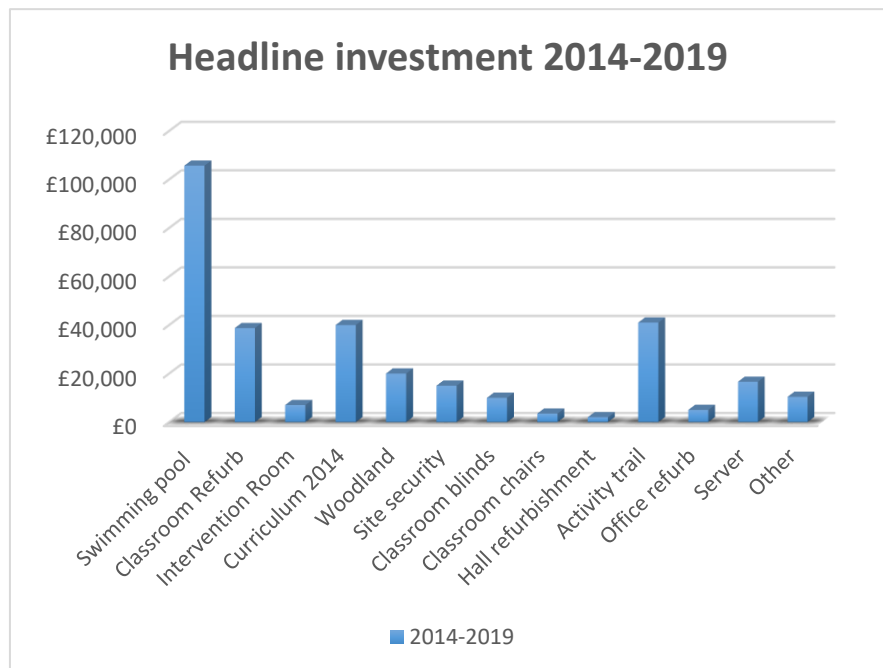
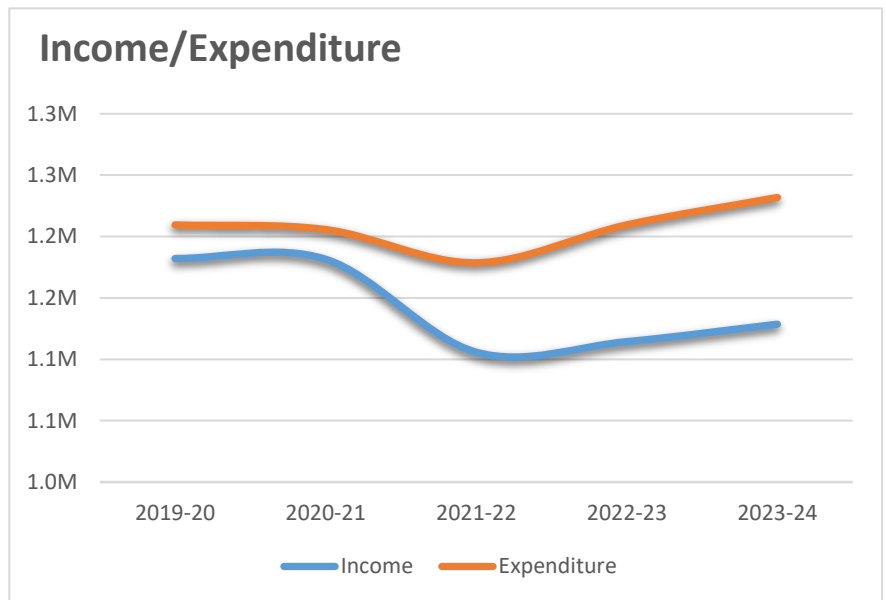
Dear Parents,

I am sure that you are well aware from recent headlines of the financial difficulties faced by schools. The National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) has reported that seven out of ten school leaders have indicated that their school budgets will be untenable by the academic year 2019/20. Independent analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies has concluded that the amount of spending per pupil in England’s schools has fallen by 8% since 2010.

At Nascot Wood Junior School, we pride ourselves on our strategic financial planning, and our ability to target our funding to where it is most needed. When I took over as Headteacher in 2013, the school was in a difficult financial position, and, since then, we have worked hard to ensure that we have had a healthy surplus each year, enabling us to invest in high-quality education for your children.

Through this investment, we achieve the highest outcomes – we are in the top 10% highest attaining schools nationally.

Despite this, it is clear that, going forward, we are going to have to make some tough decisions about how we manage dwindling budgets.



Mathematics Home Learning

Over the last three years, we have invested £21,000 in Maths Whizz for your children's home learning. Many parents have found it a useful resource, particularly the regular reports that they receive.

We are no longer in a position to be able to fund this resource, so we have set out year 6 children to work, researching available resources and their relative prices, so that parents can make an informed choice about the resource in which they want to invest.

Name of Resource	What it offers	Age (when Specified)	Cost	Reviews from Y6
Maths Whizz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Animated tutorials ▪ Weekly parent report ▪ Progress tracker ▪ Certificates 	Up to 14 years	£19.99 per month, £149 per year – additional children £99.99 per year Free trial offered	'The new format is great for the avatars'
Mathletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Animated tutorials ▪ Weekly parent report ▪ Progress tracker ▪ Printable workbook library ▪ Certificates 	Lessons up to A level standards	£59 per year – both Mathletics and Spellodrome £79 per year – discounts for additional children Free trial offered	'Quite good stretch and lets you know the correct answer'.
Skoolbo	Includes other learning activities as well as mathematics	Age up to 10 years	£8.95 per month, £74.95 per year Free trial offered	'A bit young for junior school children'
Sumdog	Mainly mental mathematics		Free to play some games, £4 per month for access to more games	<p>'The games are fun and you don't know you're learning maths'.</p> <p>'You can interact with others as a challenge'.</p> <p>'There is plenty of practice with mental maths but not a lot of reasoning'.</p> <p>'The avatars are rather limited compared to Maths Whizz and Mathletics'.</p>
Komodo Maths	Diagnostic testing and personalised tutoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivational rewards ▪ Komodo belts for progress 	Ages 5 – 11 years	£9.99 per month, £89.99 per year – refund if not satisfied Free trial offered if you sign up	'Couldn't sign up for a free trial without a credit card'.

Name of Resource	What it offers	Age (when Specified)	Cost	Reviews from Y6
Maths Practice	No tutoring just practice	Ages 5-15	£12.99 per month for mathematics and English, £99 per year mathematics and English £59 per year for Mathematics alone	
Matr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On line assessments ▪ Printable worksheets ▪ Progress reports 		Free trial offered if you sign up	
DoodleMaths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent dashboard ▪ Collectables for rewards ▪ Also has DoodleEnglish and DoodleSpell 	Ages 4 - 14	£5.99 per month, £59.99 per year, £169.99 for a lifetime Free trial available if you sign up	'Couldn't sign up for a free trial without a credit card'
Smartick:	Mathematics reasoning and programming skills	Ages 4 – 14	Price available upon registration Free trial available	<p>'The voice was quite condescending, made me feel like a small child rather than a sophisticated year 6'</p> <p>'You can pick your level so you can challenge yourself'</p>

How can you help support your child's education?

Unlike many local schools, we have decided not to ask you for an annual parent's financial contribution, as we want to continue providing the highest quality education for your child, which is free of charge to families.

However, as we are put under more and more financial pressure, we do need your help.

You can support your children by:

- Contributing to all school trips and events, including swimming. Some of our trips currently run at a loss and this will not be sustainable in the future
- Contributing to our 30 second survey to get your opinion on parental contribution to inform our financial planning <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZMNRS3Y>

If you would welcome the opportunity to talk about fund raising, donations to the school, or any financial matters please contact the School Business Manager, Charlotte Drury at sbm@nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk