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Executive Headteacher:
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Mr. C. Scott

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19th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, prices and the cost of living continues to rise, and I know many of you will be facing difficult financial decisions of your own. I regret to inform you that funding and budgets are being stretched across the education sector, and our schools' budgets are also affected by these economic circumstances. Sadly, this is a national funding crisis across the education sector and it isn't localised to our schools.

Since forming the Federation, the governing body and I have worked closely with Norfolk County Council, to make careful financial decisions, however, we are now in a position where, we must make savings in our budgets to avoid further deficit.

The proportion of children with special educational needs in our schools is considerably above National averages, with 22% of children at each school on our SEND registers. As you'll be aware from National and local media, SEND funding has been significantly reduced. In September 2025, both schools experienced a considerable reduction in funding for children with special educational needs. However, those children remain in our schools and they deserve the very best education just like any other child.

Recent research released by the Schools Cuts Coalition, shows that the vast majority of primary schools (76%) will not be able to afford their costs in this financial year; this includes both Barford Primary and The Bawburgh School. For example, all staff cost of living pay scale increases are only partially funded, meaning the schools' budgets will be further stretched to cover costs. Normally, with each new financial year the school's budget shares are increased by approximately 2% (to cover inflation), this year, 2025/2026, we did not receive an increase. These are just a couple of examples of how our school's have been affected financially. As a result, we will need to make difficult decisions in order to reduce our in-year overspends whilst maintaining our focus on quality of education within our small schools. Rest assured we are working hard to make decisions that will have the least impact on the day to day learning of your children. Our priority is to provide your child with the best possible education in our nurturing and family friendly schools.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

Carla Stedman
Executive Headteacher

Chris Scott
Chair of Governors