

St. Paul's National School, Ratoath, Co. Meath

Phone: 01 8257246 Fax: 01 8257253

Dear Parents,

25th November, 2011.

During the past number of years the country has experienced an unprecedented period of economic and financial difficulties. Individuals, families, communities and organisations have found themselves at the receiving end of severe cuts in finances and resources. The primary school sector, as you well know, has undergone serious reductions in supports and funding.

The preparations for Budget 2012 are underway and as parents with children in St. Paul's National School, we are asking you to make your voice heard in demanding of this government that no further financial constraints are placed on our school. It is important to remember the role that education plays in the welfare and well-being of children. The staff of St. Paul's National School, in partnership with you, the parents, have striven to maintain excellent standards of reaching and learning in our school despite the severe cut-backs in educational spending by government in the last three years.

We must mobilise our school community to ensure that this government and our public representatives are made aware of the damage that has already been inflicted upon schools.

Further threats to teacher staffing could mean the loss of a teacher in St. Paul's National School. This will probably result in the creation of split classes.

These are the results of a government's short-sighted response to an economic crisis which was never the fault of our young people.

Our school cannot take any more cuts - please write to and/or visit your public representative and demand protection from unnecessary cuts in education spend and please post the card attached to your local public representative or to one of the following:

Deputy Regina Doherty TD,
2 Main Street,
Ratoath,
Co. Meath.

Minister for Education & Skills,
Ruairi Quinn, TD,
Dept. of Education & Skills,
Malborough Street,
Dublin, 1.

It is critical that contact is made now with all public representatives in order to emphasise the value and importance of education for our children. Education is the key to an inclusive and prosperous future for all the citizens of this island.

Yours sincerely,

Morag McGowan
Principal

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