



St. Anne's C.E. (VC) Primary School

"Together with God, Making Learning a Life Long Friend"

We aspire to be guided in all that we do by our inclusive Christian ethos. We are enthusiastic about life-long learning and share wisdom in serving each other and our world. We encourage all to live lives of hope and aspiration, inspired through acquiring new skills and attributes. Dignity and respect are at the heart of our school.

1st February, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5 pupils,

RE ; STANDON BOWERS 2025

It has been brought to our attention regarding questions and queries regarding the cost of Standon Bowers 2025. We wish to take the opportunity to inform you accurately of some of the myths and rumours that have been shared with ourselves.

- Whilst the class is indeed a smaller class than some other year groups, the number of children in the class has no bearing on the price. Whether 10 children attend or 40 children attend this is the cost that the provider Standon Bowers charges per child, not per group.
- St. Anne's C.E. Primary School do not make any profit as such on the amount charged. We charge the amount that the supplier in this case (Entrust- Standon Bowers) charges the school. This in fact would be illegal. As stated we subsidise the amount.
- The St. Anne's staff that accompany the children do so voluntarily. They do not get paid to attend overnight with the children; therefore, the cost to parents and carers does not include any subsidy such as this.
- It is been brought to my attention comparative costs with other providers such as PGL or Conwy (North Wales). A week with these providers at this time of year (High Season) is of more expense - £450+ hence why we have made the decision to go with cheapest alternative for parents.
- It has been quoted that some schools have charged different prices to parents. Unfortunately, when we take our children to Standon Bowers, we visit during High Season. Low and Mid-season have different price structures and will be in fact cheaper. We do not visit during this low and mid-season for a number of factors that include,

St Anne's C.E (V.C.) Primary School, Brown Edge, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST6 8TA

Telephone Number: 01782 503102

office@st-annes-brownedge.staffs.sch.uk



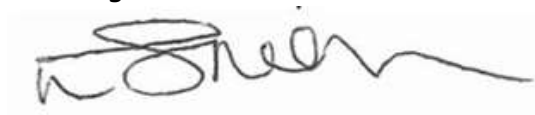
weather, timing of the school year to ensure that children have the best opportunity with their SATs and use the week as an after-SATS activity for children to enjoy themselves and learn new skills.

- Different schools, in different areas of deprivation will receive more funding from the government. This is called Pupil Premium funding. This can range in difference of tens of thousands of pounds between schools depending on location. We receive very little pupil premium funding therefore are unable to subsidise it to greater degree as some schools may be able to do.
- Whilst school budgets should not be of a parental concern, the cost of living and inflation has or is increasing quicker than the rate that we receive as a school. Indeed, the cost of Standon Bowers to school has increased by approximately 15% since the last year. Unfortunately, school budgets have not increased by this amount allowing us provisionally to not subsidise this more.

We strongly believe that the benefits of a Year 6 residential are absolutely enormous for a Year 6 child and we strongly advocate the merits of such visits. This is a once in a lifetime experience for the children. However, we completely understand the financial pressures on families. This is one reason that we have decided to inform you of the visit at the earliest opportunity (January 2024) with the deadline for payment (May 2025) 16 months away. After the original deposit, this should equate to £25 a month as the balance can be paid in instalments. The deposit date deadline is something that we are tied to and cannot be moved. We would also like to fundraise for the trip once they enter Year 6, but obviously this amount cannot be guaranteed.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Kind Regards



Edward Hobson
Headteacher
St Anne's C.E. (V.C.) Primary School
Brown Edge
Staffordshire
ST6 8TA

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