



Monks Orchard Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with real sadness that I need to let you know that this term will be the last term that Place2Be will be working with us at Monks Orchard Primary School.

As you know, school budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The senior leadership team at Monks Orchard has been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made, including the decision to finish the work with Place2Be.

I am well aware that this is not the first time I have written to you recently with news about decisions we have had to make because of funding difficulties. Please be assured that we take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. However, rising costs, inadequate funding and the recent reduction (by Croydon Council) in our pupil numbers mean that we have little choice but to look at where we can make savings across the school.

Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that seven out of ten school leaders think that their budgets will be unsustainable by the 2019 academic year. Last year, the Department for Education re-allocated £1.3 billion for schools from existing budgets, but this is over two years and is not sufficient. Nationally, there is a £2bn gap in funding each year until 2022.

Over the last few months, we have been conducting a financial audit and, with the support of Croydon Council and the Governing Body, looking at how we can make savings. We work hard to make sure that these savings have the least impact on teaching possible.

Place2Be has been a great help for us, providing support and advice for children and families who need a place to talk. But sadly, this is one of the services that we will be losing. Most of the other savings will not be as noticeable to parents; e.g. we are changing our support package from Croydon, reviewing our contracts and Service Level Agreements with everyone who provides a service to the school and many other changes and savings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Place2Be, and particularly the staff who have been working with us over the last two years, for their hard work, support and for the huge impact they have had on our children and families.

Your faithfully

Guy Fairbairn
Headteacher

