



# FLORA NEWS



## Headitorial

Fantastic world book day yesterday, many congratulations to the children (and parents of course!) for the effort put into making the costumes.

I am pleased, at last, that the funding crisis that is in all schools is finally receiving some print space and airtime on the news.

### **An e-petition about school funding in England was debated by MPs on Monday, after attracting over 100,000 signatures.**

The petition was started last year by teachers in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

The group says schools are having to make cuts to staffing, subjects and other activities, due to their income not keeping pace with rising costs.

The government says it has increased funding by an extra £1.3bn across this year and the next.

In a fresh attempt to raise the profile of funding, the e-petition says: "Schools are having to make difficult choices on how to spend their limited funding as their income has not kept pace with the rise in costs since 2010.

"All schools are working very hard to 'make ends meet' but this is becoming increasingly difficult and verging on almost impossible."

It says that schools have had to cut back on a range of things, such as teaching and non-teaching staff, support for vulnerable pupils, teaching resources, extra-curricular activities and subject choices in secondary schools.

In response to the petition, the Department for Education said: "We recognise schools are facing budgeting challenges and we are asking them to do more.

"We have increased funding by an extra £1.3bn across this year and next, over and above previous spending plans."

Siobhan Lowe, head teacher at Tolworth Girls' School in Surbiton, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme she had been forced to make a "phenomenal amount of cuts" in every area of her school. "I've reduced the number of teaching groups, I've reduced the number of options that students have, I've increased class sizes, I've cut critical services such as student support workers who work with our most vulnerable," she said.

"I personally have cleaned the school, washed the toilets, served in the school canteen. My girls are looking at me and feeling so sorry for me that they're actually picking up the Hoover and doing it with me."

Ms Lowe added she had just £10 per pupil per year to fund basic needs such as books, and that parents were having to pay for things such as printing.

"As a head teacher, you're almost embarrassed to admit you can't support the students in your school," she continued. "But why am I embarrassed? It's not my embarrassment.

"It's due to the fact that I'm not given the money to provide for the students."

It is also sad to see that education has had a finger pointed at it regarding the terrible incidents recently involving knives. This article adds some balance to the hysteria:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/sep/18/blame-cuts-not-headteachers-school-exclusions-laura-mcinerney>

Have a safe weekend.

Monday at 1.30pm – Comic Relief - Red Nose Day assembly

Thursday at 1.30pm – Pi Day - We are celebrating Pi Day next Thursday. There will be a special assembly in the afternoon where the Pi competition will take place.

Friday at 9.00am - Comic Relief – comedy show by the pupils.

Friday at 2.30 – St Patrick’s Day Assembly with music, dancing and special guests...not to be missed!

Parents are welcome to attend all of the above!



Thank you to GoodGym who have been volunteering at the school with some decorating in the White House. So far they have repainted the main room where the pupils meet for Breakfast Club and After School Service. We have them booked in for some more sessions over the coming weeks.



Year 5 received a special delivery in the post which happened to be letters inviting them to Hogwarts! Let’s see whether they accept or decline...



## Attendance

4<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Class	Attendance
Reception	93.8%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	97.%
Year 4	97.%
Year 5	97.2%
Year 6	95.8%
Total	96.3%

A very good week for Reception through to Y6 – wouldn’t it be good if we could have 100% attendance across the school next week!

Nursery	88.1%
---------	-------

There will be a Parents and Friends of Flora Association meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am in the library.

## Value Award Winners

- Nursery – Tyler
- Reception – Dalal
- Year 1 – Joaquin
- Year 2 – Muhammad
- Year 3 – Ayan
- Year 4 – Bruno
- Year 5 – Taifa
- Year 6 – Joel
- PE – Swimming Team