



13th July 2020

Dear UCPS Parents/Carers and Families,

The challenges posed by schools being closed have been considerable. In the background we have been strategically planning 2020-2021, with opportunities to enrich the curriculum. This includes creating inspiring special focused weeks: book week, Shakespeare week, Arts week, Science days and Diversity events.

The Green Shoots Fund, a parent-led initiative is contributing significantly to our ability to further enrich the curriculum and children's learning experiences. Thanks to the regular monthly donations from parents, carers and families, we have a healthy additional budget to ensure we keep alive our vision to create wonderful memories for all our children.

Whilst we have been unable to use some of this fund since March, we have added to our resources this academic year, in preparation for September 2020. Since the Fund's launch last school year, these regular monthly contributions have provided UCPS with nearly £26,800 in additional funding. Currently 45 people contribute to the fund – giving between £10 and £250 a month. This is incredibly generous and there is no doubt that the fund impacts positively in school. Thank you!

	Amount	Detail
Total in account:	£26800	As of July 2020
Book and Shakespeare Week 2019/20	£3000	Resources including additional books, art resources and
Artist in Residence	£4000	Committed during 2020. We are spending £4000 to increase Mrs Smith's (Our Artist Teacher) days in school – she will be our 'Artist in Residence' between September and December.
Mental Health	£3000	Committed during 2020. Mental Health and Well-being of our children is important as we reopen the school and we will welcome expertise into the school to support our work.
Special weeks	£10000	Committed during 2020. We are also committing funding from Green Shoots towards bringing musicians, artists and other experts into the school to support our special weeks.

We express our sincere thanks to all Green Shoots Fund donors and to all UCPS families, who make countless contributions to our community every day. Whether you give your time, your talent or your treasures, we are grateful for it all: the allotment and grounds work has been guided and nurtured by some of our parent/carer community, FOCUS work in creating memorable moments (like Cinema nights and discos), those who are volunteering their time and committing to do so next year, those who are translating documents to help make more people feel welcomed and included, and the financial donations...they all are equally valuable in making our school a special place to be.

I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Kind wishes,

Dr James Biddulph

Headteacher James Biddulph

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Green Shoots Fund at UCPS

What is the Green Shoots Fund?

A steady, reliable source of financial support made possible by regular, automatic monthly donations from parents, carers and friends of UCPS. It has been created in response to the many parents who have approached FOCUS and asked how to support the school on a more consistent basis.

What is its purpose?

Our state educational system is under considerable financial strain, and UCPS relies entirely on state funding. (Despite its name, UCPS receives no supplemental funding from the University.) In this challenging climate for state schools, our buzzwords have to be stability and flexibility: stability to sustain success, flexibility to overcome obstacles. The Green Shoots Fund accordingly offers UCPS more stability and flexibility, empowering the school with reliable, month-to-month funding that can address unexpected challenges throughout the year and avail our children of learning opportunities beyond those envisioned by the state curriculum.

How will donations be used?

The idea of the Green Shoots Fund is not to be prescriptive. It strives to give our teachers room to attend to issues and expenses as they emerge and develop over the course of the year. Donations are made directly to a dedicated bank account at the school and are administered in accordance with the school's strict financial policy. The Headteacher will report annually on the fund's revenue and how it is allocated. Each year the Headteacher reports to parents via a letter.

How to give?

It's easy: just set up a revolving monthly bank payment via standing order (see attached form). Some parents have also opted to donate through their employers' payroll giving programmes (in the first instance, FOCUS can help with any questions about this method of donation). FOCUS suggests that parents consider a monthly contribution of £10/month, in line with the experiences of other UK schools. If you are able to give more, please consider doing so. Please remember to complete the attached GiftAid form to increase your donation by 25%. (GiftAid not applicable for pre-tax donations.)

Who can give?

Anyone. We look to parents and carers as primary contributors, but the Green Shoots Fund also offers as great way for grandparents and other friends/family to support the growth and development of our children's education.

Do I have to participate?

Absolutely not. We all contribute to the school in whatever ways we can: Time, Talent or Treasure. Our hope is simply that the Green Shoots Fund offers UCPS's parent/carer community an easy, convenient way to help the school thrive by way of monthly financial contributions.

What if I want to earmark my donation or make a special, one-off contribution (e.g. by purchasing educational equipment or sharing skills)?

Great! The Green Shoots Fund is one of various avenues by which to give to the school. Please contact the staff directly to discuss a targeted contribution. We encourage parents also to consider how their employers may make in-kind or financial contributions to UCPS.

Who is behind the Fund? Who should I contact for more information?

The Green Shoots Fund is spearheaded and organized by FOCUS, although donations to the Fund go directly to UCPS to benefit our teachers and children. All questions about the initiative should be directed to FOCUS at focusucps@gmail.com.