



St Helens Council

# SUTTON OAK CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Headteacher:** Mr. I. Williams, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH  
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20<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Fraud Attempts**

Please be aware that school would **NEVER** email you and ask you for any payments i.e. school dinners, school trips, snack money etc. Our normal method of contact is by text message or a letter on a school letter head.

Fraudsters are placing themselves in the middle of transactions between parents and schools. The fraudster contacts the parents outlining details and payment instructions for the latest school fees. Initial contact appears to primarily be made via email and often from the school's own compromised email system. However the NFIB has also seen instances where the email address used is similar to that of the school (i.e. nn instead of an m). The victim then makes the required payment into the bank account which is in the control of the fraudster. By the time the fraud has been identified, the funds have already been dissipated.

In several instances there has been a strong social engineering element at play within the email, with the fraudster suggesting a discount on the fees can be obtained if the parents pay early.

Please be very vigilant and if you experience any of the above please contact us ASAP.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. I Williams  
Headteacher

