

Trump 'is an idiot with brains of a schoolboy,' say his aides



BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN US Editor DONALD Trump's frustrated aides say the US President has the brains of an 11-year-old, a book claims.

In Fear: Trump in the White House, journalist Bob Woodward says Chief of Staff John Kelly told a staff meeting: "He's an idiot."

"It's pointless to try to convince him of anything. He's gone off the rails. We're in crazy town. I don't even know why any of us are here. This is the worst job I've ever had."

And he claims Defence Secretary James Mattis said Trump had the "understanding of a fifth-grader".

Following a chemical weapons attack on Syrian civilians in 2017, Trump reportedly told military brass he wanted to assassinate Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

According to Woodward, the Defence Secretary responded by telling the President he would work on plans, but then hung up the phone and told an aide, "We're not

going to do any of that." Woodward, 75, who along with Carl Bernstein uncovered the Watergate scandal, claims the President's team have gone to great lengths to avert disaster as they struggle under him.

Trump pushed back against Woodward's scathing new account of how the White House operates, saying that it's "just another bad book" and suggested the journalist made up some of the content.

NIKE KNEES TRUMP: P23

CRISIS IN OUR CLASSROOMS: SCHOOL WEEK CUT

PART TIME PUPILS

Heads bring in shorter hours to balance the books as Tory austerity cripples education

EXCLUSIVE BY TOM PARRY Special Correspondent

HEAD teachers desperately trying to balance the books due to Tory cuts are putting pupils on shorter weeks in a bid to save even more cash as the schools crisis deepens.

And they warn the drastic move could severely jeopardise the education of tens of thousands of children unless Theresa May ends her crippling austerity.

Many have been left with no choice but to bring in a 4.5-day week for kids as they cannot staff classrooms properly.

The measures come as a Mirror investigation found schools are so strapped for cash many special needs pupils are not getting support as heads have had to axe teaching assistants, leading to fears of behavioural problems.

That is coupled with a lack of basic equipment, growing class sizes, no cash to repair leaky buildings, staff shortages and cancelled school trips.

At least 24 schools across the land, including 14 in Birmingham alone, have ditched lessons on Friday afternoons. And more than 200 other heads have warned they are considering doing the same.

Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the National Union of Headteachers, said: "The idea that some schools have moved to a 4.5 day week and that others are considering the same option ought to be ringing serious alarm bells with the Government."

"School budgets are at breaking point. School leaders have made all the obvious savings, now they are faced with having to make major changes to the way they provide education."

Kevin Courtney, joint general secretary of the National Education

Has your child's school been hit by budget cuts? Contact the Daily Mirror newsdesk at mirrornews@mirror.co.uk

Union, added: "Unless this is addressed a dire situation will only get worse. Children and young people deserve better than this bargain basement version of an education system." Sending pupils home at lunchtime on Fridays means heads can employ fewer assistants to provide cover for teachers who are out of the classroom doing vital preparation work for other lessons. Many heads, with some begging parents to provide cash for basic equipment such as exercise books and



COSTS Mrs Gay and Mrs Rayner

Early cut saved teacher's £35k

HEAD teacher Michelle Gay says a shorter week was the only way to save £35,000 - the equivalent of a teacher's salary.

Mrs Gay, who runs Osborne Primary School in Birmingham, said having a half day on Fridays was due to shrinking budgets and rising costs.

She said: "We would never ever have thought about it apart from the funding issue."

"If we hadn't have done that then we would have run a deficit budget this year."

Mrs Gay, who has met Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner, added: "We can make small savings; if I reduce the swimming it's £1,500 or music it's £2,000 but £3,000 is peanuts when talking about a teacher or teaching assistant."

The school has had to spend less on basics like paper, while football is banned because a dangerous surface cannot be replaced. Swimming and music lessons have been cut.

TOUGH TASK Teachers are struggling Picture posed by models

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PLUS Brilliant World Cup pick-up

IN THE PM'S BACK YARD...

SCHOOL BEGS FOR LOO ROLLS

Parents asked to donate essentials as even May's constituency hit by brutal Tory cuts

SHOCK Our story in May's constituency

Roll of shame

A SCHOOL in the Prime Minister's constituency asked parents to provide toilet roll to help it save cash. St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary sent an Amazon wish list link to 17 items, also including pens and A3 paper. Elsewhere, school staff have reported

in PM's patch

bringing in paper aeroplanes and balls for breaktime as kids have nothing to play with. In Hitchin, Herts, Parents Against School Cuts Campaign collected toilet rolls to pass on to schools. And Robert Piggott C of E primary in Wargrave, Berks, asked for a £1 a day voluntary contribution for stationery.



Cash 'just recycled from other budget areas'

THE new national funding formula introduced in April was supposed iron out discrepancies between regions. Justine Greening, then Education Secretary, said schools would get an increase of 0.5% per pupil from this school year and a 1% increase from 2019-20. She said cash would go directly to schools rather than local authorities and minimum funding levels of £4,800 per pupil at secondaries would boost schools that are currently underfunded. But heads said money was just being recycled from other parts of the education budget. Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner said: "For many pupils and schools, funding will fall in real terms between now and 2020. "There is no new money for education and this funding for schools is coming from other cuts to education budgets."

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