

Thursday 11th March 2021

A welcome return for all

Welcome back everyone! It has been so fantastic to welcome all the children back into school and see how eager they are to get back to 'normal' learning. I am in a very privileged position to see all the children come through the gate in the morning with big smiles on their faces, followed by working hard in class to continue the great learning that occurred remotely. Thank you again for the support you (the parents and carers) provided for the children at home during the latest lockdown.

Whilst we have only been back a few days, the children are already back to working hard and showing everyone what a brilliant community we have. I am pleased to see any 'back to school' nervous have gone and children are once again representing the school brilliantly.

Drop off and picking up

As per the text that went out earlier in the week: **please do not arrive early at school**, as this can create crowding at the gates – consider what time you arrive in a morning and then please only arrive at your child's pick up time. It is also very important that **everyone wears a mask whilst on school site**. We want everyone to be as safe as possible and these measures are in place to enable this to happen.

Attendance

As always, attendance remains of huge importance. Thank you all for getting the children back in to school, on time and ready to learn. We continue to strive to hit our 96% attendance target and with your support this is a very realistic target. Please continue to support us in the children attending as much as possible – any missed time is as critical as it ever has been! As I have said before, attendance is compulsory and we will contact you if we have concerns about your child's attendance. If there is any way we can support you in ensuring your child has full attendance then please contact school.

Parking in Macaulay Street

Parking is always difficult down Macaulay Street due to the road being so thin and having a dead-end. Can I please remind parents, if you really need to travel by car, to park towards the end of the street and not on the corner or in front on the main gate. Dropping children off at the gate in your cars can have a huge effect on the cars behind you and then ultimately can cause potential danger for children crossing the road. Please can I also remind parents that the school car parks are for staff only and should not be used by parents.

School dinners

Attached to this letter is information about the booking of school dinners, please read this carefully as it is very important meals and payments are made in advance of children receiving their lunch.

Uniform

Since Christmas I understand that a lot of children have grown out of uniform and require new clothes, however with the current restrictions shops are not open and it is more difficult to get the right equipment. However, Uniform Direct are still taking orders online and collection is possible from store. Where possible, please try and get the children new uniform as soon as possible so they are attending in the correct uniform. The school office have ordered lots of new ties for Y6 children, which should be here next week – if you do require a new tie, please let the office know and they can set one aside for you.

Thank you all again for supporting the school in the return of all pupils. Whilst we continue to live in an uncertain time, you can always rely on school to provide the best education possible for all of our children.

Booking and paying for school meals

Dear Parents & Carers

Now we are back into school and dinners have resumed as normal, it is very important that meals are booked and paid for promptly and in advance of the children receiving the meal.

Our catering staff in school require meal bookings at least one week in advance. We still require advanced bookings for children who are eligible for free school meals, including children in Reception and Key Stage One who receive Universal Free School Meals. If meals are not booked then we will provide a main meal for your child however we may not be able to swap this if your child does not like this meal on the day.

How to book

To book your child's meals, log into your ParentPay account, click on 'Make Bookings', select which week you require to book and select which meal your child would like for each day. You can order meals for several weeks ahead.



Key to icons

- Complete booking
- Incomplete booking
- Locked for payer
- Locked for all users
- Booked by payer
- Booked by manager
- Cancelled by payer
- Cancelled by manager
- Meal taken
- Choose on day
- Info

How to pay

School meals are £2.20 per day, £11 per week. Payments should be made in advance, ideally at the time of booking. You can easily monitor your balance on ParentPay and top up your account when needed. Debt is monitored on a weekly basis and you will be contacted to clear any debts in advance of booking further meals.

How does ParentPay help you?

- gives you the freedom to make secure payments to school for meals, breakfast club & visits
- gives you the options to select a school meal from the menu
- stops you having to write cheques or search for cash to send to school
- gives you peace of mind that your payment has been made safely and securely
- helps with budgeting; payments are immediate, there is no waiting for cheques to clear
- payments for many of the larger trips can be made by instalments up to the due date
- ParentPay is quick and easy to use.

How does ParentPay help your school?

- keeps accurate records of payments made to every service for every student
- allows catering staff to order and cook the correct amount of meals so that children can have a meal of their choice
- reduces paper 'waste'
- allows for easy and quick refunds to be made back to the Parent Account
- improves communication between the school and parents concerning payments
- offers a more efficient payment collection process, reducing the amount of money held on school premises

If you need any assistance with using your ParentPay account, please contact the school office.