

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Dear parents and carers

### ParentPay

You will be aware that we have operated the online payment system ParentPay for just under a year, and its introduction has proved very successful. Many parents now pay for school meals online, whilst also being able to monitor their child's eating habits.

You will also be aware that during implementation the school introduced a debt policy that allowed each child to go £3.00 overdrawn in order to ensure that they had access to a meal. Unfortunately, we are becoming increasingly aware that this function is being abused by many students and in fact are exceeding the £3.00 debt limit, with some accruing debts of £20.00 or more.

With this in mind, effective Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 students who have reached this debt limit or attempt to go over this debt limit will not be served in the school canteen until their account is back in credit. You may be unaware, but if debts are incurred, then the school budget has to pay for them. This means that money which should be spent on student's education is used to pay for debts incurred by children. I am sure every parent will agree that this is unacceptable and we request that all parents give this new policy their full support.

### Free School Meals

Many families qualify for Free School Meals which allows each student a total of £2.20 to spend each day. However, many students are using this allowance to attempt to pay for breakfast, break time and lunchtime meals, and despite our prices remaining consistently low for the past seven years, this is causing many of our Free School Meals students to enter into debt.

In order to combat this, effective Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 students on Free School Meals will only be able to take their allowance during the lunchtime sitting, this will ensure that each student receives a full meal each day, and is how other schools in the area operate. A £2.20 allowance at lunchtime will enable a student to gain a full meal, or snack equivalent (burger etc.), a dessert and a drink, which certainly represents excellent value for money. Students in receipt of Free School Meals who wish to purchase any breakfast or break time items will need to ensure that they have money on their ParentPay accounts in order to do so.

If you believe that your children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals, please contact the school reception for more details. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. The school will do all we can to help you with your application.

If you have any questions relating to the information in this letter, please contact Mr Timmis to discuss the matter further.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully



Emily Verow  
Headteacher