

Children, Young People and Families

School Food Service, Business Strategy
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To the Parents of Dore Primary School

Dear Parent,

ONLINE PAYMENTS

As you will be aware, the school implemented ParentPay, to enable parents to pay for school meals via a more modern, effective and efficient online payment system.

The system is in the process of being extended, to enable parents to make online payments for music lessons, schools trip and uniforms in the future, enabling parents to access a single payment system. Over the past 8 weeks we have been working closely with Sue Hopkinson, Headteacher and her school office team, to review how ParentPay is working at Dore Primary School.

The review concluded that while the system was working well, there were a number of issues with regards to a large number of parents being in arrears on their school meal payments. We have worked with the school to develop a clear School Payment and Debt Policy, which will shortly be going to the School Governing Body for discussion and approval. As part of the new School Payment and Debt Policy, it will be imperative that parents prepay for their children's school meals. Therefore, from the 1 June 2014, a monthly prepayment for school meals will be required e.g. parents will have to make their online payment through ParentPay by the 1 day of each month, if their children are to receive a school meal.

Parents with children who do not have school meals every day, will be able to pro rata this monthly payment to include the number of meals their children will be having in the month.

For families who may find it difficult to prepay for school meals for the month, they will be able to contact Mrs Liz Firth, the School Family Advocate to access support.

It is important that schools spend their funding on education, to support attainment and improved children's outcomes, and not on supporting payments for school meals and therefore I am sure we can rely on your co-operation.

If you have any feedback on the ParentPay system we would welcome your views via the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leah Barratt'.

Leah Barratt
Service Manager
School Food Service