

17th January 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter of 14th December 2010, we are pleased to confirm that we are installing a new cashless system for the catering service at Chew Valley School. Our desire is to continue to provide and improve on the quality of the meal service at the school. We are sure you will appreciate the advantages the new system will now offer the parents and pupils of the school. Also the system will enable us to deliver a more efficient, faster service as well as continuing to provide wholesome, healthy, and enjoyable meals.

The system will start operating on **Monday 7th March 2011**. ***From this date no cash can be accepted at the food counter 'Till Point'.***

For your convenience and to assist us in our administration of the service, a method of online payment by www.parentpay.co.uk has been introduced. We would prefer that all parents make payments for their child's school meals in this way. However if this is not viable, please forward a cheque for at least one week's lunch and tuck money with your child to be deposited in the locked Post Box provided in the school Reception. It is essential that you:

- ***Write the full Name of the Pupil and their Tutor Group on the back of cheque***
- ***Make the cheque payable to 'Chew Valley School'***
- ***Place the payment in a sealed envelope.***

The online payment system will be able to accept payments for school meals with effect from Friday 25th February with a minimum transaction amount of £15.00, if you are paying by cheque please forward the first payment to the school by this date, (see above for details), in order for the school to have all the pupils' accounts credited by Monday 7th March. The system is designed to avoid cash payments but if these must be made, they should be delivered by the pupil to the Finance Office window at break-time.

All pupils will have an opportunity to be biometrically enrolled on the 2nd and 3rd March.

The school is able to provide you with a report detailing each item of food served, each credit made to the system, for any time period and show a current balance.

PTO.....

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Cashless Catering

*Please return this tear off slip to the Finance Office if you **do not** wish your child to be biometrically scanned by **Monday 24th January**.*

Child's Name.....Tutor Group.....

Signature.....

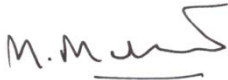
There is a daily 'spend limit' programmed into the system of **£5.00**, this can be increased or decreased for an individual pupil by making a written request to the finance office.

Benefits

- It removes the use of cash in the school avoiding potential problems of loss, theft or bullying.
- It increases the convenience of paying for school meals. No more looking for change every morning.
- It helps reduce queuing times through increased speed of service.
- Specific food allergy ingredients can be barred automatically.
- We hope to increase the fun of 'healthy eating' with awards.
- The system will help teach important life skills by using a biometric system and training students to be responsible for their own account.
- Stigma is removed for free school meals entitlement.

I know that in commercial settings, these kinds of changes are sometimes used to disguise price rises. Please be assured that school meals costs are unchanged.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Mallett
Headteacher