



3 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Removing Cash from School**

I am writing to let you know that from Monday 9 March 2020 learners will no longer be able to bring cash into school to pay for school meals.

We have made this decision because it is in the best interests of our school community and will lead to a healthier and happier school life for our learners. Parents and carers are often giving their child cash to spend in school which is being diverted to fast food outlets in Birchwood Shopping Centre. This change will have many benefits:

- Fewer opportunities for learners to make unhealthy food choices in Birchwood Shopping Centre's numerous fast food outlets.
- Fewer energy drinks being consumed before and during the school day.
- Fewer opportunities for learner-to-learner buying and selling.
- Fewer opportunities for bullying associated with cash.
- Less fast food litter in and around the school site.
- Parents and carers knowing where the money they are giving to their child is being spent.

We are very well placed to make this change, since 2016 we have used Parent Pay as an online alternative to cash. 85% of our parents and carers have activated their account and majority are already using this method to pay for school dinners.

Any parents or carers who prefer not to use online payments should contact the office who will be happy to organise a Pay Point card which can be used in local shops to top up your child's dinner money account.

Finally, I would like to urge any parents or carers who have not yet activated their Parent Pay account to do so as soon as possible. There is no need to wait for 9 March to make this change. All parents or carers who have inactivated accounts will receive an activation letter next week.

Yours sincerely,

Ms E Mills  
Headteacher