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Mrs K Law – Head of School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to make you aware of some important changes coming up in the new academic year in September.

## A New School Payments System

As of September, **we will no longer be using the School Money payments system and will instead be using a payments module within the same MCAS system** which families already use to access messages, attendance, parents' evenings, school reports etc.

### **What does this mean for you as the parent / carer?**

- One MCAS login to access all pupil information, messages and payments.
- Changeover will happen late August, therefore you will not be able to book wraparound care or school dinners **until the week before school returns on 4<sup>th</sup> September.**
- An MCAS message will be sent in the week before school opens, informing you of when you can book breakfast club, after school club and school dinners.

Please bear with school staff as we navigate the new payments system. Please see attached a parent guide to the MCAS module.

## School Dinners

Due to the Department for Education confirming the cost of a school dinner will be £2.53, our school dinner provider Independent Catering have increased their price to match, therefore the new price will be £2.53 per day in September. New term menus are already available on the school website and payment can be made via MCAS just before the start of the new term.

## Update on Attendance

New government guidance has put in place attendance thresholds that are now similar to the pre-covid levels. We therefore have the expectation that all children will have **97% attendance** throughout the year. If attendance falls below this, we will begin monitoring **and if attendance falls below 90%** we will be contacting you to discuss the ways in which we can improve your child's attendance. As always, absences such as holidays during term time will not be tolerated and a penalty notice fine will be issued in line with Kent County Council policy.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Michaela Lewis, Executive Headteacher

## **'One Childhood One Chance'**

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