



Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

T 01702 343583 F 01702 390201

W [www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk](http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr Tony Sharpe, BA (Hons), M Mus, M Ed, NPQH

Email Contact: [jlk@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:jlk@stbernards.southend.sch.uk)

Dear Parents / Carers

**RE: Cashless Catering**

When your daughter started at the school there were letters in the starter pack that provided information about our catering provision and how your daughter could purchase food both at break and lunch using our Vericool and Parentpay systems.

Therefore, for many of you it will be quite some time since you have considered the options available and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of them.

Your daughter may purchase food before school, at the breakfast club, at break time where a variety of hot and cold snacks are available and at lunchtime where the offer ranges from salads, sandwiches, pasta pots, jacket potatoes to full cooked meals, deserts and fruit.

To make purchases students access their Vericool account using their fingertip as an algorithm so no cash is handed to the catering staff, it provides privacy to the individual and no one is aware how much, or how little the individual has on the account nor whether they are in receipt of a free school meal.

There are several ways by which funds can be put into the student's accounts:

- ❖ by cash through the cash loader in the Milton Road Locker Room – this is instant but requires your daughter to bring money into school and load it into the machine. This could involve queuing to do so if your daughter picks a busy time.
- ❖ by cheque delivered through the brass letterbox or directly to the accounts office – this will need a little time to be processed.
- ❖ through Parentpay which is our preferred option.
- ❖ by a daily allowance should you be in receipt of free school meals. This does not accumulate – it is just available for the day and goes on automatically.

A letter has been posted to you to provide details of your Parentpay account – these can be reissued should you require them. This allows you to make an internet transfer of funds but equally money can be transferred by 'paypoint' in shops – their logo is normally hung outside the shops that participate. The system also allows you to review not only the money that you have paid in but also the purchases that your daughter has made.

At a time when there is intense media coverage on the food we eat and the roles that schools can play in helping to guide young people to make wise, informed choices this information can help you have greater awareness of what your child is eating and allow you to continue those discussions at home.

We are looking to lodge details of our regular and themed menus on the website and on Parentpay so please look out for them.

Yours faithfully

**MRS J L KRONE**

School Business Manager