



In all things faithful

St Damian's RC Science College

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Headteacher

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Dear Parents & Carers

Important Information Regarding School Dinners & Payment Items

Due to the current situation we are following guidance set out for the September opening of schools. A few things will have changed when your child returns to us in September. There will be a condensed practical menu, fingerprints will not be used to pay for school dinners or to top up their accounts and cash will no longer be accepted. This is for the safety of pupils and staff and to minimise risk of transmission.

Condensed Practical Menu

We will only be offering a condensed practical menu in order to manage dinner queues. Fish and Chips on a Friday will not be initially available. There will only be one hot selection each day, grab bags will be prioritised which will consist of a sandwich, piece of fruit and a drink. **We are advising that you consider sending your child to school with a packed lunch.** Due to safety measures, breakfast will not be served as the school will not be opening until 8.40 am so that children do not mix. Children entitled to Free School Meals will still be able to receive a hot meal. All of these new processes will be under constant review and we will change accordingly.

Dinner Money Cards

The advice is to minimise cross contamination by removing services that require contact with surfaces. Therefore, fingerprints will no longer be used to pay at the till. Each pupil will now be issued with a personal Dinner Money Card which they need to present at the till if they want to purchase any food or drink. If your child loses their card there will be a £1.00 replacement fee which will be charged to their dinner money account.

Cashless

After a review of reducing high contact areas we have taken the decision to remove the cash loaders. These are the machines located in the piazza. These machines required children to use their fingerprint to add cash to their dinner money account. Children will no longer be able to add money to their account in this way.

Going forward, parents/carers will now only be able to top up their child's dinner money account through SIMS Pay. All purchases from school must be made via SIMS Pay, this includes items such as: Ties, Revision Guides, Water Bottles, Calculators. No cash is to be brought into school.



If you do not have access to the internet or a computer a Pay Point Card can be issued, which can be used to top up at your local pay point. This can be issued for all payment items.

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While we know these changes may cause inconvenience, we have been working towards becoming a cashless school for the past year. Once we get over any initial 'teething' problems, we believe that this will be a more efficient way to manage the service. We have highlighted that some of you have not yet signed up to SIMS pay. SIMS pay will be the only way of topping up your child's dinner money account. If your child wants to purchase food during the school day at St Damian's, then you must sign up for SIMS Pay or apply for a Pay Point card. However, while we make the transition to becoming fully online, you may for the short term send cheques into school for School meals only these are to be made payable to 'Robertson Facilities Management' all other items such as trips/revision guides etc must be made via SIMS Pay or a Pay Point Card.

If you haven't yet signed up and require to purchase items or food from school then e-mail parentaccess@stdamians.co.uk. Please clearly state your child's name, form and date of birth along with your name and the contact number we hold for you on our records.



SIMS Pay | Secure Online Payments

For further advice please refer to our website: <https://www.stdamians.co.uk/parent-online-payment-system>

Many Thanks
St Damian's

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