

# King Edwin Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

**Our school made the decision to move to a cashless system earlier in the year and started the process of accepting payment for school meals and visits through our 'School Gateway App'.**

For many parents, the cashless system has been well received. They have been able to book school meals easily, pay for them and they have also been able to complete school visit and club admin through the 'Gateway' too.

The 'School Gateway App' is our schools chosen method of administration for ordering school meals. For many parents this has been adopted quickly and after a few teething issues, parents are booking easily and consistently without problems. Unfortunately we do have a minority of parents that do not book school meal choices and simply tell their child that they are having a dinner or packed lunch each day. This causes an unnecessary waste of teaching time due to the filling in of registers and extra office administration as we then need to log on to the gateway to book and in many cases – telephone parents to check whether a child is having a school meal or not.

I'm a little disappointed that we still have parents that are not adapting to our chosen method of ordering school meals and would ask one final time that from now on, all school meals are ordered on the 'Gateway', even if your child is in receipt of a universal free school meal or bringing a packed lunch. Many other local schools actually have similar systems and have reported to us that they have at least a 99% success rate in relation to parent usage.

We know that there have been many changes at KEPS this year and understand that it can sometimes be a little frustrating moving away from what we have always done however, everything that we do and every decision we have made is centred around maximising opportunities for our children and bringing our school well and truly into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**It is very important to note that even if a child receives universal free school meals in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2, the gateway must still be used.** This is because many children will have a packed lunch or school meal on different days. This is also helpful when children are choosing the alternative school meal of a jacket etc.

Ms Coleman is very happy to show parents and talk them through how to use the Gateway and if you have any questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Can we also ask that parents ensure that their child is aware of what meal they are having every day. We often have many children that are not sure what they are booked in for, they are sometimes booked in for meals that they say they don't even like and sometimes we have children that get very upset that they are booked for a meal that they didn't want.

Kind Regards

Mr Callaghan-Wetton