

2022 03 01

Dear Parents/carers

In October, we introduced our new communication system, and the My Child At School system has been running ever since. This is a portal that manages all school information for parents and is also the tool for adding payments to student cards for meals.

As a school, we would never see a child go without a meal, and as such, as the system has been rolled out, red card passes for students have been utilised for students to use when appropriate.

As the system has now been running for some months, we would expect all our families to have created their My Child at School account, and to have the appropriate access to upload funds to their child's student card.

For students who have outstanding debt due to red cards being used over a sustained period, we have contacted families to support with clearing the debt and are working together to ensure that families are aware of how to add funds to student's cards through the new system.

Information about My Child At School can be found here: [BromCom - Orchard Mead Academy | Leicester | TMET \(orchard-tmet.uk\)](https://www.bromcom.co.uk/Orchard-Mead-Academy/Leicester/TMET-orchard-tmet.uk)

Students may bring a packed lunch to school or make use of the school canteen for food. We understand that sometimes life is busy, and things are forgotten, so we are allowing the use of red cards to be issued in certain circumstances, where the card is no more than £5 in arrears. A phone call home is typically made when a red card is issued to keep parents informed wherever possible.

Support for families

We know that times are challenging for many people at the moment, in the aftermath of the pandemic, and with the rising cost of living and energy bills, and as a school, want to support our community as much as we can.

Our breakfast club opens from 7.30 am each morning, and breakfast is provided at no charge for all attendees.

Free fruit is available to all students throughout the day.

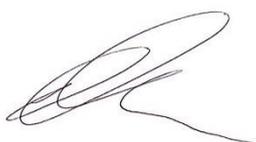
If your circumstances have recently changed or you aren't sure if you qualify, you can check your eligibility for Free School Meals here: [Free school meals \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/free-school-meals/) Children eligible for free school meals are entitled to one free meal a day.

Families can always get in touch with us if they have any concerns about their circumstances, and we will always endeavour to support our community and signpost to appropriate services as appropriate.

From 2nd March, no red card will be issued for students with over £5 arrears on their student card, so please ensure that your child comes to school with a packed lunch, or adequate funds to purchase a school meal (if not in receipt of free school meals).

We will be engaging with our families to clear the outstanding balances, and ensure any families still not signed up on the new system have accounts in place.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Oldman

Executive Principal
Orchard Mead Academy