



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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**Interim Executive Headteacher: Dr James Lane**

27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents

## **OUTSTANDING SCHOOL DINNER MONEY**

We have an increasing number of dinner money accounts which remain unpaid in spite of repeated reminders from our very busy office team. School dinners are no different to any other business in that meals need to be paid for by someone; we would not expect to go to a restaurant and not pay for our meal. The school is required to cover the debts owed to ISS, our school dinner providers, from our own school budget. This means that those parents who do not pay for their children's school meals are affecting every child in the school as these debts must be met from the school's already limited funding. As you can imagine this situation is unsustainable.

We would like to thank the majority of our parents who do pay promptly for their children's meals. However, to ensure that our pupils are not adversely affected by the cost of school meal debts we have no alternative but to take a "zero tolerance" approach going forward.

With immediate effect, if you would like your child to have a school meal this will have to be paid for up front so that all dinner money accounts are kept in credit.

In the event that an account has an outstanding balance, which we appreciate could happen through some oversight, we will notify parents by text and expect the debt to be cleared within 24 hours. If after this time the amount is still outstanding your child will need to bring in a packed lunch as we will not be able to provide a full school meal until the debt has been cleared. We will contact you to inform you that this is happening. Any long-standing debt will be referred to the London Borough of Barnet's Legal Department for action.

The current cost of a school meal is **£2.15** per day or **£10.75** per week and payment can be made online, using Tucasi (the link is on our website), or by cash/cheque to the school office.

***PLEASE CHECK THE BALANCE OF YOUR ACCOUNT AT ANY TIME ON THE TUCASI WEBSITE USING YOUR CHILD'S PERSONALISED LINK CODE.***

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

**Dr James Lane**  
**Executive Headteacher**