



General Information for Parents about Parent Communications, Cashless Catering, online Payment systems and School trips.

Parentmail

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do. In the past we relied on printed letters but delivery of these can be unreliable; they are also expensive, take time to produce and are not environmentally friendly. At Oathall we use ParentMail, a service that allows us to communicate with parents by email and mobile phone.

Using ParentMail means:

- Messages will get to you reliably and on time
- Messages can be sent directly to Parents and other carers at the same time
- Emergency or important information can be sent by text message

During the summer holidays we will be sending you information on how to register with this service so that you receive information from the beginning of term. If your child's Primary School already uses ParentMail we will also send you instructions on how to add Oathall to your existing account.

ParentPay - Online Payment for trips, activities and catering.

In order to make it easier for you to pay for trips, activities and school meals Oathall currently uses a secure online payment service called ParentPay®.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you wish, safe in the knowledge that the technology used adopts the highest internet security available. We will ensure your family has a secure online account, which can be accessed with a unique user ID and password. You can change these to something you will easily remember. ParentPay enables you to view all items available to each of your children along with relevant costs and details. Further information about registering with this service will also be sent to you during the summer holidays.

Cashless Catering

Oathall uses a cashless payment system for all purchases made in the canteen. This operates using biometric finger recognition technology. Please read the attached information carefully and return the registration form enclosed to ensure your child has a catering account set up for them when they start at Oathall. We will need a registration form returned even if you do not opt to have a biometric account otherwise your child will not be able to make purchases in the canteen.

Consent for School Trips and Other Off-Site Activities

The Government is determined to reduce burdens on schools. They want to simplify health and safety requirements and explain them better. As a result written consent from parents is no longer required for pupils to take part in the majority of off-site activities organised by the school as most of these activities take place during school hours and are a normal part of a child's education at school.

From now on written parental consent will usually only be requested for activities that need a higher level of risk management or those that take place outside school hours. The school will continue to send you information about trips or activities either at the start of a series of activities or before a set activity takes place. A consent form is included in your pack. This form will cover your child's participation in any of these types of activities throughout their time at Oathall. These include adventure activities, off-site sporting fixtures outside the school day and residential visits.

In most circumstances, once the consent form is returned you will not be required to complete and return any further paperwork for any off-site activities. Please make sure you continue to keep us informed of any change to your contact details and of any new medical information about our child.