



5th May 2011

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re Lunchtimes

As you know, I'm not keen on children leaving the school playground at lunchtime unless accompanied by an adult or walking straight home. There are a number of reasons for this, mainly around safety and avoiding any problems that could occur when children are unsupervised. In the past I have seen problems at lunchtimes ranging from road accidents through incidents with older children to being scared by adults' behaviours and I am, of course, very anxious to avoid this happening to any pupil of St Clement's. I'm also very keen to avoid children getting themselves into situations where they might misbehave or tarnish this school's reputation. Finally, we're also trying hard to encourage healthy eating habits and this can be undermined by the sorts of snacks which are bought outside school.

Recently, a few children have started to take it upon themselves to go to the shops at lunchtimes (some claim parents' support), often causing difficulties by bringing half eaten snacks and drinks back into the playground. Today a group of boys went to the shops then across to Charleston Primary into their playground, which caused some problems. This is completely unacceptable, shows what can happen when groups of children are out and about unsupervised and underlines why I feel that it is very important that the children stay in our playground.

I would really appreciate the support of parents/carers in this important issue. I know that some children will pester and say that 'everyone else does it' but I would ask you to insist on one of three options for lunchtime. The ideal solution is for children to take a school lunch or to bring a packed lunch. If your child is to come home or go to a relative's for lunch, please make sure that they do go; hanging about at the shops or elsewhere in the scheme is not, in my opinion, safe for primary aged children and bringing bought snacks back to school causes other difficulties. I have said to the children that although I cannot formally enforce this, if they continue to go against my wishes I may decide to withdraw some of the privileges offered in school such as membership of clubs, teams, etc.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this.

Yours sincerely,

A. Macgregor
Head Teacher