



52 Park Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3ES

Telephone: 01656 774100

Email: info@porthcawlschool.co.uk

Ysgol Gyfun
PORTHCAWL
Comprehensive School

52 Park Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3ES

Ffôn: 01656 774100

Ebost: info@porthcawlschool.co.uk

Headteacher/Pennaeth: M. J. Stephens NPQH, P Dip Ed, BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: D.W.A Beard BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: C-A. Painter BA (Hons)

22nd February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that you had a good half term break.

During the summer term 2024 we plan to improve how we communicate using our digital systems. Please treat this letter as an 'initial update' about our future plans. Please note, there are no immediate changes.

Schoolcomms / School Gateway

Since the start of the academic year, we have been using 'Schoolcomms / the School Gateway App'. It was introduced as a school-to-home communication system and it is also supported by another system called 'Parent Pay'. Many families will be familiar with Parent Pay as we have been using this system for the payment of school trips.

The long-term plan is for digital payment to become the main method of payment at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, and we are planning to move to a full 'cashless' system. E.g. for the payment of food in the canteen and for the payment of school items and school trips. Preparation for this change is underway and we will release more information at a later date.

Digital Communication at Porthcawl Comprehensive

The table below presents our methods of digital communication and provides a brief outline for how they are **currently** used.

Digital Platform	What is this used for?
School Comms / School Gateway App	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receiving letters and general messages from school.Receiving electronic copies of your child's school report.Receiving attendance texts when not in school.Communicating back to school.Finding out about your child's progress and effort in school via Achievement Points, Behaviour Points, attendance information and curriculum information.The School Gateway App also has direct links to the school website and the school's social media (Facebook and social media 'X' <i>previously Twitter</i>).
Parent Pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Making payments for school trips and activities online.Providing consent for school trips.
Sims Parent App (Only for Year 8 and above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receiving general messages from school, faculties, departments, or individual staff.

What will happen during the Summer Term 2024?

The table below shows you how digital communication will look at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and what will happen during the summer term 2024.

Digital Platform	Continue?	What will this be used for?
School Comms / School Gateway App	Yes	You will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive electronic copies of your child's school report.• Receive attendance texts when your child is not in school.• Be able to communicate back to school.
Parent Pay	Yes	You will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make payments for school trips and activities online.• Provide consent for school trips.• At a set date, our canteen facilities will move to a 'cashless' system and Parent Pay will be the system used to top up your child's payment account. (More information to follow)
Sims Parent App	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This system will be replaced by a new system (see below)• A date when this app will no longer be in use will be communicated with you (TBC).
Class Charts	Yes (New)	<p>This system that will be introduced to replace the Sims Parent App and it will replace some of the features that will be stopped within School Comms.</p> You will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive School / Headteacher Letters.• See your child's progress, behaviour points, attendance, homework, curriculum & timetable.• Receive general messages from school, faculties, departments, or individual staff.

Therefore, in the summer term 2024, we will use:

1. School Comms / School Gateway
2. Parent Pay
3. Class Charts

There are no immediate changes, however I wanted to keep you informed of our plans and next steps. As we move through the spring term, we will share further information and we will let you know the exact date that the Sims Parent App will stop being used and the launch date of Class Charts.

We will, of course, keep you regularly updated regarding the introduction of a cashless payment system.

I thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mike Stephens

M Stephens
Headteacher

Additional Information

Schoolcomms refers to a two-way communication between home and school. When communication is sent via Schoolcomms, all first and second contacts on our school system who have 'Parental Responsibility' will receive the information. Email is the preferred method of communication with this system, therefore, we request that families inform the school of any updated contact details as they arise.

School Gateway is an app which is linked to Schoolcomms. School Gateway can be used to manage all parent/carer interactions. Here is a link to a guide for parents / carers: [School Gateway Access Guide.](#)

We encourage all parents/carers to sign up to School Gateway. This can be done by following this link: [School Gateway Login.](#)

For general school contact you are encouraged to email the school via info@porthcawschool.co.uk