



19 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

With our return to school we have been working closely with Cunninghams, our cashless provider for school meals to review our current method of verification, and are looking to trial moving to facial recognition in The Galley when we are fully open.

If you would be willing to allow your child to participate in this trial, please complete the Microsoft form on our website. This can be found under School Information, then choose The Galley. <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/the-galley/>

I have added two frequently asked questions below but if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

What is facial recognition and is it secure?

Facial recognition technology compares an image taken at the till using significant facial features to identify a person against a database of previously stored photos. Up to three photos can be stored for a user to create a "Template". This template is AES encrypted and stored in a database that is also encrypted and is hosted within the school, not externally.

I've already given permission for biometrics, do I need to do it again?

In short, yes. Previously any permission that you may have given the school would have mentioned fingerprints. While facial recognition does fall under the biometrics umbrella, the photo that the school will have on file would not have been captured for this purpose, therefore to comply with GDPR and the Data Protection Act, we will require explicit consent to use facial recognition.

The re-val machines will still be in place for students to add cash onto their account at school and of course Parent Pay will still be in use for payment of school meals. The re-val machines will still be using the old method of finger scanning.

Yours sincerely

Robert Pearsall
HEADTEACHER