



2nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: School meals

Over the past few months we have been working with Lunchtime Co. our new caterers to provide high quality school meals at a reasonable and sustainable price. The quality of meals provided at school is excellent and I would like to thank Lunchtime Co. for working so closely with us and listening to the feedback we have given based on what the children tell us. We have tracked numbers of meals carefully to try to provide the best and most popular meals with the parameters of the government guidelines for healthy balanced meals.

As you will recognise the cost of food has risen sharply and although the inflation rise is now slower it has had a significant effect on the cost of supply of school meals. From the 15% rise we experienced in 2024 the school and Lunchtime Co. have absorbed this cost keeping the price of school meals consistent for parents. Unfortunately, we are no longer in a position to continue to absorb the full cost.

Currently the school is subsidising school meals by approximately £20,000 per year despite government funding for key stage one school meals. We have therefore taken the decision to increase the cost of school meals from 1st June 2025 to £2.75 and from 1st September 2025 to £3. This still represents significant value for money. A Tesco meal deal for example costs £3.60 and the cost of an average packed lunch with value products is approximately £2 and does not have the nutritional value or the convenience of the school meals offered.

We recognise that this is a significant increase but it is unfortunately a necessary decision.

Can we also remind you that payment for school meals must be made at least on the day if not in advance. Where parent accounts fall into arrears we will be unable to provide school meals until the debt is cleared. If you are struggling financially and need support with school meals, please speak to Mrs. Taylor, School Business Manager, in the first instance.

Regards,

Antony Kern
Headteacher

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