

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know of changes taking place to the school's catering provision.

In common with household bills, costs have risen substantially in the previous two years (11% in the last month alone), and the school can no longer subsidise the food costs to keep the prices at the same level they have been at, since October 2020. If we as a school keep subsidising these costs, it will undoubtedly affect resources for children in other areas.

For this reason, the governing body have agreed to change the price from Monday 6th November 2023.

The meal deal price will increase by 20p a day (a pound a week) to provide a substantial meal of a main course, drink and a sweet; the break time items will also have a minor increase. Please check the full menu on the school website for the comprehensive menu list.

The cost of a meal deal will be £2.70p a day from Monday 6th November.

Recent national surveys based on the dietary quality of school meals and packed lunches concluded that the cost of packed lunches have risen by 70% in a year, and that children consuming school meals were more likely to meet minimum recommendations for vegetables, protein rich foods, and fibre, and not exceed maximum recommendations for salt and sweet snacks by having school meals. Our price increase is equivalent to an 8% increase.

Increasing prices is always a tough decision, but one we could ultimately not hold back any longer. We hope that parents/carers will be reassured by the fact this will not affect free school meal provision.

Also, with the current chef retiring after 30 years (taking with her our enormous thanks and warm wishes), it has given us the opportunity to look at the provision and the service delivered to our children.

The decision was therefore made, based on parent feedback, research, and a tendering process to appoint a professional catering company run the service (please see the details attached for information on AIP).

We are looking forward to working with AIP (Alliance in Partnership), who will be working to provide first class meals, with excellent choice and at a high quality.

We look forward to the new partnership with AIP and the varied, nutritional and exciting menu.

You will still be able to order your child's lunch on the parent pay app, and if you add money to your account, your child will be able to choose their meal on the day, if that is a more suitable preference for you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Shulman
South Staffordshire Learning Partnership
Chair of Governors