

13th March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that the price of school meals will increase from 22nd April 2025.

Over the past few years the costs of providing school meals have risen significantly due to increases in food, labour and energy costs. We have worked with our current provider, Mellors, to keep prices as low as possible while continuing to provide healthy balanced meals.

However, the recent national budget has introduced three key changes from April 2025 that will have a direct impact on the cost of school meals:

- Increase in the National Living Wage – rising by 6.7% from £11.44 to £12.21 per hour with real living wage increasing to £11.60.
- Lower Employer National Insurance threshold – reducing from £9,100 per year to £5,000, meaning employers pay contributions sooner.
- Increase in Employers National Insurance contributions - rising from 13.8% to 15% on all earnings above threshold.

Due to these financial pressures we have made the difficult decision to increase the price of school meals from £2.50 to £2.85 per meal. We have delayed this increase for as long as possible and have kept the rise to a minimum. Barring any further exceptional cost changes, the price will remain fixed until at least July 2026.

Free School Meals

The Universal Infant School Meal initiative continues, meaning that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals. No application is needed.

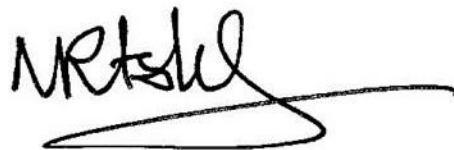
For children in Years 3-6, free school meals are available for families receiving certain allowances. If you think you are eligible we encourage you to apply. Some families who are entitled to this support may not currently be accessing it.

You can check eligibility and find out how to apply on your local authority website using the link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you have any questions or need confidential support with an application, please contact the academy office.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Ashley
CEO