

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Park Road
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27th May 2016

Dear Parents

Important School Dinner changes from Monday 6th June 2016

We have had a big drop in children having school lunches over the last few months and in particular the infant children who get free school meals changing to packed lunches. Because of this we have had to re look at the way we deal with school lunches especially for the children who get free lunches provided by the Government and we are having to implement changes which take effect from Monday 6th June 2016.

From Monday the 6th June all KS1 children (Reception, years 1 & 2) and any older children who receive free school meals will be provided with a school meal this will either be hot dinner or a school packed lunch (We ask that these children do not bring a packed lunch as we will provide them with a hot dinner or a packed lunch thus saving you £10.50 per week or approximately £42 per month). The Coalition government fought very hard for this benefit and if it is not used the present government will no doubt take it away.

If the drop in numbers were to continue we are in danger of losing Mrs Allerton and our school kitchen which we don't want to do as we are very fortunate as a small school to have our meals freshly prepared on site and not shipped in from other schools which we are sure you don't want either but drops in numbers affect small schools in particular. For any days we fall below our target number of 42 meals the school has to subsidise any shortfall with what is already a very overstretched budget.

As you know we look at every new menu at the start of each term and make changes if we know they do not go down well with our children or we have a lot of waste and swap for something else but even that doesn't appear to be working. For example sausages has always been a firm favourite with the children and we regularly had around 50 children stay for lunch which has now reduced to around 33/35. This means that on that one day alone school had to subsidise 7/9 meals which over a week / month / term adds up meaning there is less money in school budget for other things. This also has a knock on effect for Mrs Allerton personally.

The school packed lunch will consist of a tuna or cheese sandwich, salad sticks, piece of fruit and pudding (cake/ flapjack or bun). If any KS2 children would like a school packed lunch this can be ordered on the half termly dinner slips also. We now have separate dinner slips for KS1 & KS2 children.

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If your child really can't eat / won't eat either the packed lunch or hot meal, please come and speak to Mrs Walker or Mrs Allerton and we will see if we can accommodate them.

We hope you will understand why we have had to make these changes. We will continue to monitor and do as many promotions , menu changes if we know children don't like them.

KS2 children – As they don't receive free school meals they still have a choice but they now have the added choice of a school packed lunch if you / they wish.

If you have any suggestions of ways to boost numbers or something your child would like to see on the menu (obviously we would have to go with the majority of children). Please let us know on the slip provided.

We have also asked the School Council to do a survey with the children to ask their opinion.

Yours faithfully

Mr J V Donnelly

Headteacher

School Lunches – Any suggestions

Name of Child

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