

4 January 2022

Price increase for school meals from 1 April 2022

Dear Parents

Over the last couple of years, the food industry has experienced supply chain difficulties on a scale that they have never witnessed before. I am sure you have seen much-publicised staff shortages, but also rising costs as a direct result of increasing wages, as well as pandemic and Brexit-related impacts, such as:

- Driver shortages and steep wage increases across transport roles
- Increases in agency staff rates
- Higher levels of courier costs
- Rising vehicle repair and maintenance costs
- National Living Wage and general wage increases
- Increasing fuel costs
- Growth in general inflation

Suppliers have absorbed some costs over the last 12 months, but we are now in receipt of a number of suppliers warning of 'out of contract exceptional price increases' set for December 2021 and January 2022. Suppliers have informed us of price rises from 4% to 10% across the board.

Examples of their justification is below:

- 15% increase in the cost of tomatoes, the main ingredient in the majority of our pasta sauces
- 32% increase in the cost of Durum wheat, largely due to poor harvests impacting the cost of pasta
- 25% increase from suppliers in the cost of distribution within the UK
- 22% increase in packaging costs, directly linked to an increase in UK paper prices
- 7% increase in the cost of disposables, largely linked to raw material costs
- Processing flour +18% increase
- Cost increase of rapeseed oil up +21% during past year
- Global impact challenges with unprecedented movements in Polyethylene (packaging film) where demand is outstripping supply. Prices have risen since the lowest price in May by 22%
- 25% increase on the prices paid for chicken



We have worked closely with our school catering adviser, Relish, to find a way to minimise the impact of these on our catering costs, but we are now at a point where we have to increase the prices charged to you.

From 1 April 2022, school meal prices will increase to £2.50 per day from £2.34 per day, an increase of 6.8%. One-week's meals will therefore cost £12.50.

Adult meals will increase to **£3.20 per day** from £2.90 per day, an increase of 10.3%.

Parentpay will update on 1 April 2022 for these new prices. Please ensure your account is in credit at all times otherwise your child will not be able to have a school meal and will have to have a home-provided packed lunch.

We are sorry to have to do this, but we cannot run our catering at a loss as it will then negatively impact on learning resources for the pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Navarro
School Business Manager



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