

29 March 2023

Dear parent/carer,

We hope that you are well and looking forward to the Easter break. As we approach the end of the spring term, we wish to share with you some important information regarding school meals and support for families.

School dinner price

In September 2022, the organisation who provides catering in most of our schools, Chartwells, increased the price of school dinners from £2.30 to £2.57 per day. To support families at a time when the cost of living was rising, The Moorlands Primary Federation decided to not pass-on that price increase to parents/carers and wished to help-out by maintaining the costs payable to school at £2.30.

Unfortunately, Chartwells have made the decision to raise the price again. After Easter, the cost per meal being charged to schools is going up to £2.83. Sadly, we are therefore unable to absorb this additional cost per meal in each of our Trust schools and we are subsequently having to increase the price payable by parents/carers for school meals from £2.30 per day, to **£2.60** per day.

We apologise that this cost has increased, but we hope that our subsidy continues to provide some support for you: the parents and carers of our wonderful pupils.

Free School Meals

As you may be aware, there are circumstances whereby some children may be entitled to Free School Meals. The eligibility for this is based upon a range of things including income within the home, and we would urge any parent/carers who may meet this criteria, to apply. Should circumstances be a little challenging at the moment and you are meeting the criteria (even if only for a short period whilst between jobs), then a helping hand with meals may come in useful. Should you successfully apply to Staffordshire County Council for Free School Meals, then your child may also receive extra benefits within school including support with the costs of educational visits.

Parents/ carers of children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are also able to apply for Free School Meals should they meet the eligibility requirements. Of course, children at this age can already receive a free lunch through the Infant Free School Meal scheme, however, by applying for 'income-based' Free School Meals (apologies for the two very similar and confusing titles), you may also receive the extra benefits for your child. If you are eligible and this will help - please apply.

Each morning, when staff complete the register and ask children what they are having for lunch, there is no difference which can identify those receiving Free School Meals from those who are paying for meals and the menu is also identical.

To see if you are eligible for Free School Meals, please visit:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



Food Banks

Should any of our families be finding things particularly challenging at the moment and are struggling to find enough food at home, please come and speak to us. Our schools are very proud to be referring agencies for the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Cheadle, who can provide short-term support in terms of food packages for you and your family.

If there is anything which we can do to support, please just let us know – our team in your child's school are always happy to talk with you, to listen, and to try to help.

Kindest regards and best wishes for a happy and peaceful Easter,

The Moorlands Primary Federation team

Bishop Rawle C E Primary School



Dilhorne Endowed C E Primary School



Manifold Primary Academy



Great Wood Primary School



The Valley Primary School



St. Werburgh's C E Primary School



Hollinsclough Primary Academy

