



20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**

I write with important news about changes to the school meals service in **St Patrick's Catholic Primary School**.

We know that times are hard right now financially. We are all dealing with unprecedented cost inflation at home and it's no different for our schools. The huge cost increases we are experiencing across our supermarkets means that all our school kitchens are faced with them too from our suppliers.

Food inflation is at an all time high, at around 30%, and with global supply issues this isn't likely to change in the near future. We have tried really hard to minimise any impact to our families and communities and will continue to review our costs and menu's to provide affordable choices.

Unfortunately, the increases are simply too big for the school to cover and therefore in September school meal prices will be increased to £2.65 per day from £2.40 per day, we've tried so hard to keep costs as low as possible so can reduce that increase to just £1.25 per week. We are doing our utmost to minimise the impact to you and although our costs have increased by 30% we are only increasing school meals by 10%. The remaining 20% increase is being covered by the school budget, however the school is not receiving any additional income from the DfE to cover the cost of school meals.

Our wonderful Catering Teams do everything we can to make 'school dinner time' as enjoyable as possible and we are constantly considering our menu choices. All of our menus are fully compliant with the government's School Food Plan. All of our Catering Teams will ensure that all children have a popular and healthy meal choice every day, with options to meet the needs of all age groups and those with notified special dietary requirements.

Please find further information on our "Garden Kitchen" school meals service attached, showing some of our delicious meals and our Catering Cluster Managers. You can even see our short video by clicking the link.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Nick Hurn, OBE.  
Chief Executive Officer

**CEO: Mr N Hurn, OBE** Barmston Court, Turbine Business Park, Nissan Way, Washington, Sunderland, SR5 3NY  
**T: 0191 487 7638 | F: 0191 482 4421 | E: info@bwcet.com | bwcet.com**

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales under company registration number 7890590.

Registered office: Barmston Court, Washington, Sunderland, SR5 3NY