



18 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Result of our trial of the ParentPay pre-booking meal system

Following our trial of a new pre-booking meal system through ParentPay, and after careful consideration, we have decided to return to our previous school meal system where children choose their meals on the day. From the start of the summer term, you will no longer need to — or be able to — pre-book meals on ParentPay.

Although there have been many positives to the pre-booking system, there has been a significant fall in the number of children taking school meals. As a result, we have had to reconsider how our school meal system has been working this year. Ultimately, we must ensure the system remains financially sustainable and cannot ignore the drop in uptake.

We are very grateful to parents for the thoughtful feedback many of you have provided, and for your flexibility and willingness to use the pre-booking system during the trial.

Changes from Monday 13th April

From Monday 13th April:

- Children will tell their class teacher in the morning whether they are having a **“Pack Up”** or a **“School Dinner.”**
- Those choosing a school dinner will select their meal when they reach the serving counter.

Parents will then be charged on the day via ParentPay. Please note that you can add funds to your ParentPay account in advance to avoid your account going into debt for each meal.

Exciting new menu from Mellors

We will also be introducing an exciting new menu for the summer term. Following feedback from our older classes, the menu includes several new options, such as:

- **A hot pudding option once a week**
- **Taco Tuesday**
- **Sausages (instead of frankfurters) in the hot dog buns**
- **Garlic bread**
- **Gammon**
- **Spaghetti Bolognese**
- **Fries (instead of chunky chips) on Fridays (we will trial this and gauge response)**

We have worked hard to listen to what the children would like, while also ensuring the menu meets Mellors' nutritional requirements. We have already shared the proposed menu with the older children, and they are very excited about it. We strongly encourage parents to support and encourage their children to give the new menu a try.

School Dinner Prices – from 1 April 2026

We also need to let you know that the price of a paid school meal will increase to £2.80 per meal from Wednesday 1 April 2026.

The last increase to school meal prices took place in November 2024, when the price rose to £2.70 per meal. Since then, the cost of food, ingredients and catering supplies has continued to rise due to ongoing inflation. In order to maintain the quality of the meals we provide and to help cover these increased costs, it has been necessary to make a small adjustment to the price.

The increase represents a 3.7% rise, and we have worked hard to keep this as low as possible. We have also benchmarked our pricing against other local schools, and the cost of £2.80 per meal remains good value for money for a freshly prepared hot lunch each day.

As always, our catering team continues to provide a balanced and nutritious menu with a range of choices each day. We believe that a healthy school lunch plays an important role in supporting children's wellbeing and learning.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to receive their school meals free of charge through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, so this change will only apply to paid meals.

If you think your child may be eligible for means-tested Free School Meals, we would strongly encourage you to apply as this can provide additional support for families and the school. The school office can help with this if required.

Until the Easter holidays

Current ParentPay bookings remain open until the end of this term. Please continue to use the pre-booking system as normal until the Easter holidays.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.