



07 September 2026

School Meal Price Increase

Dear Parents and Carers,

At our school, we are committed to providing high-quality school meals that offer a wide range of nutritious, balanced and enjoyable choices for our children. Over recent years, we have invested significantly in enhancing the quality, variety and overall provision of our meals, while working hard to keep costs as affordable as possible for families.

To support this commitment, the school has subsidised the cost of meals from its budget. However, continued increases in food, staffing and operational costs mean that this is no longer sustainable. Maintaining the current price would place increasing pressure on school finances and reduce the resources available to support teaching, learning and wider educational provision.

Therefore, with regret, we need to increase the cost of a school meal to **£3.20**, effective from **28 September 2026**.

We firmly believe that our school meals continue to represent excellent value for money, providing children with a freshly prepared, hot and nutritious meal, together with a dessert each day. They also offer a well-balanced option that compares very favourably with alternatives available elsewhere.

We kindly remind parents and carers that school meals should be paid for in advance and that accounts should remain in credit. We understand that some families may choose to alternate between school meals and packed lunches, and children are not required to have a school meal every day. We are happy to accommodate occasional or ad hoc meal bookings whenever needed.

Free School Meals

This price increase will not affect pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) are available to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of family income. Eligible pupils will continue to receive a free school meal each day.

Income-related Free School Meals (FSM) are available to children whose parents or carers meet certain eligibility criteria. Children who qualify will continue to receive a free school meal every day and may also benefit from additional support funded through the school's Pupil Premium allocation.



Importantly, eligibility criteria changed on 1 September 2026, and more families may now qualify for Expanded Free School Meals if they receive Universal Credit. Even if your child already benefits from Universal Infant Free School Meals, registering for income-related Free School Meals can provide valuable additional funding to support your child's education and enable the school to access further resources.

If you think you may be eligible, please use the link below to check your entitlement and submit an application:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We remain committed to providing healthy, nutritious meals that support children's wellbeing, development and learning throughout the school day.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Walsh
Headteacher