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26th November 2024

School Meals Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may recall that we wrote to you in May advising that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Catering Services were in the process of undertaking a major financial review, and this resulted in an increase in the cost of paid school meals. At the time, OCC were unable to rule out a further increase once the review had been completed.

We have now received an update from OCC:

“Due to the unprecedented financial circumstances we have experienced over the last few years (Covid, significant pay rises for lower paid staff and continued rising food costs), the service returned a significant deficit in the 2023/2024 financial year and, if we are to ensure the continued sustainability of the Catering Service, this has to be addressed.

The service has, and continues to, work extremely hard in driving costs down across all expenditure. We have renegotiated pricing with our food suppliers, created our new menu (which to date has been well received) with a reduced cost per meal, improved our productivity within kitchens and are robustly managing our labour costs.

However, these actions alone are not sufficient, and it is therefore, with regret, that I am informing you that all pupil meal prices will rise from the 1st of January 2025, for all schools, regardless of the way that you sign up to our service.”

As a result of this, our meal prices will be increasing to £2.95 with effect from Monday 6th January 2025. Scopay will be updated to reflect the increase before the end of term.

Whilst we realise this will be disappointing for families, we hope you understand OCC's reasons for the increase. Our school meal provision is under constant review and, although there are commercial providers available, the financial pressures are being felt across the sector and we currently do not believe there to be a better option. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Linfoot - Business Manager



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Respect Compassion Resilience Hope Integrity Humility