

Dear Parents / Carers

Following on from a consultation period, where we have carefully considered feedback from parents and children, we have been working closely with Aspens, our school catering provider, and are writing to inform you of some amendments to the current lunch offer, commencing in the new year (from January 8th 2024).

In line with guidance set out in 'School food standards practical guide' (Department for Education, updated 7 February 2023), there will be a meat or poultry option on offer three days a week. In addition, Friday will continue to be a fish-themed day and there will be a nutritious meat-free option available every day.

For our winter menu (up to February half term), there will be the option of a homemade dessert, with many containing at least 50% fruit. The option of fruit, jelly or yoghurt will remain each day, with many children currently choosing this over a cookie.

Some parents have expressed concerns that children are discouraged from bringing their own packed-lunch. This decision lays with parents. Should you choose to send your child with a healthy packed-lunch, please be mindful of our children with allergies, by ensuring no food containing nuts is sent in (including chocolate spread containing nuts).

From the survey, we know many parents have appreciated some of the recent changes. We are pleased to confirm that the daily salad bowl and freshly baked bread will remain available every day, in addition to the vegetables / salads offered with the meals. We appreciate the positive feedback regarding the new round tables and the social opportunities they bring.

The updated menu is attached for you to view. It will run for the first half of the spring term. After the February half term, Aspens will move to the summer menu, as we do each year. This will be sent to you and added to the school website nearer the time.

In response to some of the other points made in the survey, we will also be reviewing the day that family dining is offered, to enable more parents to be able to attend at least once a year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!