

# Dinners

We are applying for the Healthy School's accreditation award. This means that we must meet the stringent set criteria required to meet the standard, in areas such as Curriculum planning and teaching, health related policies, working with parents, supporting for vulnerable children and young people, culture and environment (pupil voice, school food, promoting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing) and staff health and wellbeing.

Part of our accreditation looks at attitudes to diet at school and we are committed to providing the highest quality daily food for our learners.

Caterlink is an award winning food service provider who work with schools across Camden to serve a menu that is freshly prepared daily, using local and regional produce. We currently offer the children a cooked, balanced hot school dinner, with healthy options to choose from either Vegetarian or Meat, with dessert alongside plain and fresh fruit infused water to drink. They may opt to bring their own packed lunch to eat.

In addition to our school dinners, the school also belongs to the 'Fruit for schools' scheme, whereby one piece of fruit is supplied to all of our KS1 children. Milk is also provided for all under 5's.

## Free School Meals

If you are eligible for free school meals you must register with Camden. You can apply direct online, which is the quickest and preferable way to apply. Just go to Camden's website [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can download a Free School Meals application form from the same site, or our school website under School Info, Dinners. You can also get a hard copy from the School Office. You need to send your form to Camden's Benefits Service, or you can ask the School Office to send this for you, via the internal post.

From September 2014, the Government has funded free school meals for Infants, which includes Reception, Years 1 & 2. However, many of the funding formulas for working out how much money schools receive from the government and local authority are partly decided by the number of children eligible for free school meals, so even if you get a free meal from this scheme, or do not plan to use the free meal, it is really important, if you are eligible, that you register so the school gets the funding it is due to support the teaching and learning of the children. This also applies to all children throughout the school who prefer a packed lunch.

Free meals are available to any children whose parents are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit – your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including benefits)
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- the Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

If you receive Working Tax Credit you will not be entitled to free school meals unless you have:

- stopped work in the last 4 weeks; or
- reduced your hours to less than 16 hours in the last 4 weeks

Applications must be made in the name of the person who is receiving the benefit.

You only need to apply once. Any child eligible for free school meals from 1 April 2018 will keep their free school meals eligibility until 31 March 2022, even if your circumstances change.

## Payment for school meals

The current price for a school meal is £2.24 per day, or £11.20 per week. We expect payment in advance and all parents and carers paying for meals will pay on a Monday of each week, before any meals are taken. You can pay weekly, half-termly or termly. Cash/Cheque payments can be made at the School Office. Put your payment in a brown envelope with your child's name, class and amount on the front and pop into the lunch money box.

## Menus

Menus are provided by Caterlink and change weekly. We are given a menu for one term at a time, which you can find on our website under School Info, Dinners.

## Packed Lunches

If you prefer your child to bring a packed lunch to school, provisions are made for them to eat in the school hall alongside children having a school dinner. We encourage healthy eating and you can find a food policy on this website. Essentially, you should adhere to the following:

- Packed lunches should consist of a balanced diet. A fruit juice, water or soft drink (no fizzy drinks). A sandwich, roll, pasta or rice. A piece of fruit or vegetables, like a banana or carrots. A snack like rice cakes or yogurt. No chocolate bars and crisps are allowed.
- **We do not allow nuts** in school due to staff and pupils with allergies so please do not provide nuts in packed lunches.

We expect your child to have the same meal arrangement every day. For children who have a packed lunch, we do have an option to 'Try Friday's' which allows your child to try school dinners on this day only. Your child just needs to let the teacher know and you should pay on the day, before the meal is taken.

## Changing Meal Types

If your child wishes to change from having a school meal to a packed lunch or vice versa, we require **4 weeks' notice**. This is in order to alert the kitchen that figures will change and for administration purposes. You **MUST** report this to the School Office so they can make a note and give you a date for your child to change their meal arrangements.

If your child has school meals and you require that they have a vegetarian meal, please ensure that you notify the School Office.