

School Lunches

18th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you about the introduction of charges for your child's school lunch from Year 3 onwards.

In recent years the government has funded a programme of 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This funding does not exist for children in Year 3 onwards.

Some families are entitled to Free School Meals outside of the Universal Infant Free School Meal programme and this funding will continue.

These free meals are based on an assessment of household income and this is usually re-assessed annually. To check if you qualify for free school meals please click the link for further information <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/apply-free-school-meals>.

The government currently funds free school meals at £2.30 per meal. Therefore, if you are not entitled to Free School Meals and your child has started Year 3 in September, we will need to charge you **£2.30 per day [£11.50 per week]** for your child's school meals.

As you know our school has a family style dining model as opposed to the typical canteen style for school lunches. The benefits of this are:

- A hot, healthy meal is shared by all. We have an excellent menu delivered by Fuel for Learning that ensures children receive healthy, balanced meals that are tasty, seasonal and well sourced.
- Positive relationships between adults and children are enabled by the family style dining model.
- Starting our meals together promotes better conversation/communication over food.
- Children are encouraged to try new foods because of the positive experience of sharing it with their peers.

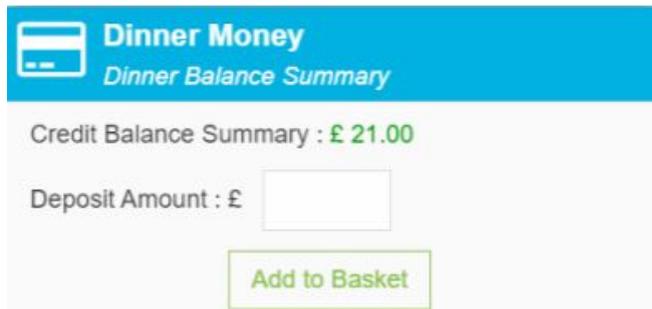
For all school lunch payments we are using our new payment system My Child at School, which you can also download as an app.

iPal will continue to be used for the booking and payment of breakfast and after school clubs when the PlayPlus services resume.

To complete payment for school lunches please do the following:

- Log into your My Child at School account

- Locate the Dinner Money widget



Dinner Money
Dinner Balance Summary

Credit Balance Summary : £ 21.00

Deposit Amount : £

Add to Basket

- Key in the amount you wish to add to your child's lunch account.
- Click add to basket
- Your shopping trolley will display 1 item in your basket
- Click your basket
- Select the green checkout
- Enter your payment details
- Once the payment has gone through you will receive a confirmation message and your Dinner Money widget will display your new balance

Please note : Childcare vouchers cannot be used as payment for any school meals.

Outstanding lunch balances will be chased often, with prompts and reminders being sent to parents. We do advise if you are experiencing any difficulty, please contact the school office to avoid any debts being accrued to the school. Failure to do so will result in your account being escalated to our Senior Leadership Team.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued patience while we were completing the transition to MCAS.

Kind regards,

M. Lewis

Melanie Lewis

Senior Administrator