



# Portesham C of E VA Primary School

'Putting children first'

[www.Portesham.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.Portesham.dorset.sch.uk)

24 July 2018

## LUNCHTIME ROUTINES

From September, we will be introducing some new lunchtime routines to facilitate a smooth and calm lunchtime experience for everybody. The timings for lunch will stay the same with Busy Bees, Reception and Class 1 eating at 12.00pm and Class 2 and Class 3 eating at 12.30pm.

As children come into the hall for their lunch sitting they will all go straight to their table, once everybody is seated a teacher will lead the children in saying Grace. Children who are having a hot meal will then go up to the serving hatch a table at a time. We think these changes will help to start each lunch sitting calmly and will mean that children can wait to be served sat at their table where they can have a drink and chat quietly to the people on their table. At the moment all the children who are having a hot meal (which is now most children) wait in a long line that snakes its way around the edge of the hall. Waiting in line may be considered a British tradition by some, but it can be very challenging for children! Taking away the need to queue will hopefully reduce the little niggles that we currently experience while children are waiting in line and make for a more pleasant dining experience for everyone.

The other significant change that we will be making is that children will be allocated to a set table each term. This is not designed to split up friends; we will always try to make sure that everybody is accompanied at their table by people who they rub along well with.

This change has been introduced to try and ease some of the social pressures that currently exist. For children, who they sit with at lunch is important but they can quickly find themselves in a tricky situation with a lot of people watching. For example two friends sat at different tables both want them to sit with them or the only place left is with a group of much older children who they don't know. These things may seem unimportant to us but can impact hugely on children. Currently, as children come into the hall the children with packed lunches pick a place to sit whilst the children queue up for their hot meal. This inevitably leads to people trying to 'save' places for their friends and leaves the children at the end of the hot lunch queue with little choice of where to sit. Equally some groupings of children work better than others; large groups of older children can be quite daunting for the younger ones and we would hope to avoid tables made up solely of just boys or just girls.

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These changes have been talked through at length, both with staff and Governors, we think that they will offer really positive improvements in how the lunchtimes operate. We will be evaluating the impact as we move through the Autumn term and ask that you support us with that by letting me know how it is working for your child. Equally if you would like to talk through any questions with me, please do get in touch.

Have a lovely Summer, see you all on September 4th!

Kind regards

*V.C. Prior*

Vicky Prior  
Headteacher

Kind regards

*Maria*

*Stacey*

Maria and Stacey  
Kitchen Staff

