



Ely St Mary's C of E Junior School

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14th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lunch Arrangements – Request to set Weekly Pattern

Further to Friday's Newsletter, relevant extracts from which are reproduced below, and with reference to the menu which is being circulated, please complete the short survey which may be accessed via this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IN8UzBtljUyoVNIgkRXTWVfI9JURNDpGinXkYs_gXRh1UNTZXNDdOUIhYUUVFVIdFOE9DOFVCODFKQI4u

as soon as possible to notify us of your child's lunch pattern for the period Monday 21st September 2020 (when we will once again be offering hot school meals) to Thursday 22nd October 2020 (the last school day before half-term).

ALL PARENTS/CARERS ARE REQUESTED TO RESPOND, PLEASE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD AT ST MARY'S, PLEASE REPEAT THE SURVEY, AS APPROPRIATE.

At the half-term break, you will have the opportunity of changing the pattern, if you so wish, as we will be asking you to repeat the survey for the following half-term.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,
Mrs Rebecca Ireland-Curtis
Headteacher

EXTRACT FROM NEWSLETTER:

Why do I have to tell you now on which days my child will be having school meals?

By setting patterns, we will know in advance how many children will be in the Hall for hot meals. This will allow us to staff the area effectively, thereby ensuring there is sufficient supervision to keep the children safe.

In the past, numbers have fluctuated considerably day-to-day, and we would only have had knowledge of numbers once all the registers had been taken on a particular morning. Due to the new systems in place to keep us 'COVID-safe', this would now be impractical, and would cause significant operational difficulties.

We feel that a proactive approach to staffing is a far better option.

In addition, by asking you to choose your child's meal patterns, we can reduce waste and, ultimately, be better at planning for deliveries, with the aim of reducing the number of visitors on site.

Why must it be half-termly?

This helps us to plan, and to ensure that we are spending our time doing what we do best, which is teaching and keeping your child safe and secure. The more consistency we have in school, the easier it is for us to concentrate on making sure our school continues to be a safe environment in these unprecedented times.

Please note that the price of a school meal is now £2.20. Meals are provided free of charge to those eligible for Free School Meals, provided that the necessary application to Cambridgeshire County Council has been made and approved.

Why has the cost of a meal gone up?

We have had to raise the cost of meals in line with the increased costs of running the Kitchen. The price is 15p cheaper than that charged by most other providers, and our meals represent good value for money.