

**Dear Head Teacher,**

### **Small price increase agreed for Hampshire school meals**

School meals continue to be the best option at lunchtime for our pupils to help them flourish. They provide a nutritious balanced diet with plenty of choice from a range of menus to suit each school. HC3S school meals meet the Department for Education's rules for healthy school lunches and the Soil Association Food for Life Served Here standards, which mean at least 75% of our meals are prepared from scratch.

Menus also adhere to the Hyperactive Children's Support Group's recommendations to remove over 70 additives and colourings that could affect children's behaviour.

As you will be aware, the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) programme has continued for the academic year 20-21 and will increase from 1 November 2020 to £2.40. For older children and young people who pay for meals, we believe our lunches still represent excellent value for money for a two course, freshly cooked school meal. However, a small increase of 10 pence in the price of a school meal has been agreed by Hampshire County Council, to come into effect from November 2020. This increase is being introduced to meet the rising cost of providing school meals, which takes the price per meal to £2.50. In addition, children eligible for free school meals will continue to benefit.

*Director of Culture, Communities & Business Services*  
**Felicity Roe**

The decision to increase the school meal price was taken at the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services and Young People Decision Day (16 September 2020). Read the [School Meals Decision Report](#) online at [hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings](https://hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings).

Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services and Young People, Councillor Patricia Stallard said: “We’re very proud of the high standard of school meals that our catering service (HC3S) provides - using good quality British produce. A healthy lunch at school contributes significantly to a child’s wellbeing and their capacity to learn, through to the end of the school day.”

She continued: “I am keen that school meals remain affordable, but we must balance this against the increasing cost of providing those meals. Mainly this comes from the ever-increasing cost of ingredients. In addition, HC3S is actively sourcing alternatives to single-use plastic across its operations, which is also projected to incur slightly higher costs, but is certainly the right thing to do in a climate emergency.”

More information about our meals and the Soil Association Food for Life standards can be found on our website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Carol Stebbing – Head of Service

*Director of Culture, Communities & Business Services*  
**Felicity Roe**

