



DATE: May 12th 2015

SUBJECT: “Dining In” - School lunch times have recently been through a period of change with the introduction of free school meals for all KS1 students. How has this affected your child and how can we make lunch times a better experience for all?

- 1. Choice of Meals – Some parents regularly are told by their children that there was no choice or options for meals depending on when they arrive at lunch.**

The number of meals ordered of each type is a best guess of the demand on the day to minimise waste. It is inevitable that some children will not get their first choice of meal but every effort is made to make this estimate as accurate as possible so all children will mostly get a choice of meals.

- 2. Lunch Queue – Parents reported that children are arranged in the lunch line in alphabetical order meaning children at the end of the line consistently end up with less choice.**

This is not standard procedure and children usually queue in a random order although this will be checked to ensure the process is fair for all.

- 3. Vegetarian Option – Is there a way of guaranteeing that children requiring a vegetarian meal for dietary or religious reasons get priority?**

To the best of the servers abilities meals are kept back for vegetarians and special diets. Kelly has a robust system in place to work out what each child with special diets can eat.

- 4. Theme Weeks– Can more information be given in advance about particular theme weeks? Particularly for students with special dietary requirements.**

The same system is in place for Theme weeks as any other. Kelly has sheets to work out what each child can eat. Any specific queries should be directed to Kelly - she is happy to help, but can only accommodate allergies as per doctors letters and not pupils preferences.

- 5. Portion Sizes – Could portion sizes be checked, as some parents believe that the sizes are irregular or smaller than advertised?**

Portion sizes are measured so that they comply with Chartwell’s standard size. This will be checked to make sure the portion control is as accurate as it can be. Portions are the same for all children, from reception to year 6 as all are paying the same price.

6. KS2 Fruit – Can children bring additional food for play times?.

Reception and KS1 are given fruit on a daily basis provided by the government. Any children who wish to bring in fruit for break time are very welcome. Please do not send in tropical fruits such as pineapple and kiwi as some children have strong allergies to these.

7. EYFS Lunch Options – Can reception children be given lunch options in advance.

Reception children are taken to lunch by their class teacher and meal options explained to them. This system seems to be working well and class teachers will continue to monitor this system.

8. Bread – Is bread available with every meal?

Bread is available every day

9. Can Midday supervisors be more encouraging at lunchtimes?

Part of the Midday Supervisors job is to encourage the children to try different foods and to make sure that all children are well fed for the afternoon at school. Supervisors will actively encourage your child to eat but will not force them to eat anything they really do not want to.

10. Milk – Are children offered milk at meal times?

Milk is no longer offered as standard at all schools. Children are given water only in line with guidelines.

11. Variety of Deserts – Are there a variety of desert offered other than cake?

As per the menu, fruit and yoghurt are always available in addition to the pudding.

12. EYFS Reading – Some parents are concerned that their child is not progressing through the reading program and that there has been a lack of phonic sent home?

This has been addressed in Mrs Birleanu's recent newsletter.

13. Behaviour Policy – Parents feel that there is a lack of communication about the new behaviour policy and particularly the reward system.

As stated in Mrs Birleanu's newsletter more information will be presented shortly about the new reward system and the concepts behind it.

This is the last parent forum of the academic year. Thank you to all Parent Reps for your contribution this year it is much appreciated. We look forward to continuing in the 2015-16 academic year and more news about Parent Forum dates and topics will be available on the web site soon.