

Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School
Chilton Lane
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CT11 0LQ

30th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re. Increase to School Dinner Prices

As you will no doubt be aware, the rising cost of food is having an impact on us all. This also includes the school catering companies including ours, Independent Catering. In addition to this, the increase to the National Minimum Wage in April 2023 will also mean that our catering company face unprecedented challenge. To give you some context to this, there has been a 15% increase to the cost of food. From April 2023, there will be a 10% increase to the cost of staff labour.

This is an increase in costs of 25% that the catering company need to find in order to continually provide the quality and standard of meals we expect for our children. Alongside this, the government funding paid to the caterers for our free school meals remains at the rate prior to these increases. If we were to apply this to the cost of the £2.30 school meal, this would mean that the cost of that meal should increase to £2.88 per school meal. However, we can assure you the increase will not be as drastic as that at this stage.

There will, however, be an increase to the price of the school meal, therefore from 17th April (first day of Term 5) the cost of our school meals will be **£2.41 per day**. This may increase again in September 2023 as well; this will be dependent on whether the government increase the price allocated to schools to provide school meal provision.

Yours Sincerely,

Traysi Higgin
Chief Finance Officer

Claire Roby
Central Administration Manager

'One Childhood, One Chance'



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