

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

We are writing to inform you of an increase in the cost of school meals, which will take effect on our return from the autumn break.

As you may be aware, there has been a significant increase in costs associated with meal production, both in relation to food supplies and energy costs. While we have worked closely with our provider, Edwards & Blake, to keep the costs as low as possible, we now face a situation where we must make some changes due to rising expenses.

From September 2024, the school has been covering the increased meal prices. However, due to financial constraints, we are unable to continue doing so moving forward. Edwards & Blake have forecast the following price increases, which will commence in September of each year. Please note, these prices are subject to change:

	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28
Meal Price	£2.42	£2.54	£2.67	£2.80	£2.94

This means the cost of a school meal will rise from **£2.35** to **£2.42**, taking effect across the Trust from **4th November 2024**.

The Government continues to support the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative. This means that all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 can receive a school meal free of charge.

If your child is in Years 3-6 and you are in receipt of any of the following, you may also be eligible for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after stopping Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive) at the time of your application.

If you have any questions or need support in making an application, please contact the school office for confidential assistance.

**Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School**



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