

23rd May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Change to School Dinner Charges from September 2023

I have recently been advised by our school dinner caterers, Principals who are part of the CH&CO group that with effect from **September 2023** the new charge for school dinners will be **£2.75** per day (£13.75 per week).

I appreciate that this is a significant increase but like everyone, Principals have been forced to increase charges in-line with the rise in food and associated costs. The school dinner contracts are awarded by KCC and therefore Meadowfield School has no control over the prices charged by the contract providers.

If you believe you may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), please complete the online application form via <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- 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 guaranteed 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 - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for 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 get)

If your child is moving into **Year 3 in September** you will no longer be entitled to Universal Free School Meals under the Government's scheme where all Reception to Year 2 pupils receive a free meal when they are in school. From September you will be required to pay for a school dinner or if you believe you are entitled to the benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) you can apply using the link above.

There are no changes to the way dinner money is paid online via Principals website but if you require assistance please use the following link <https://meals.principals-catering.com/help> which gives a step by step guide.

Kindest regards

Yours faithfully

Ginny Cosstick
Office Manager & PA to Principal