



19th July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES, September 1st, 2023

I write with important news about changes to the school meals service in St Robert of Newminster Catholic School.

We know that times are hard right now financially. We are all dealing with unprecedented cost inflation at home, and it is no different for our schools. The huge cost increases we are experiencing across our supermarkets, are also faced by our school kitchens from their suppliers.

Food inflation is at an all-time high, at around 30%, and with global supply issues this is not likely to change in the near future. We have tried really hard to minimise any impact to our families and communities and will continue to review our costs and menus to provide affordable choices.

Unfortunately, the increases are simply too big for the school to cover and therefore in September school meal prices will be £2.95 per meal-deal per day. Our daily 'meal-deals' represent excellent value for money and include a hot main course, a dessert or snack item and a bottle of plain or flavoured water. Please note that the Free School Meal entitlement will still cover the Meal Deal. We are doing our utmost to minimise the impact to you and although costs have increased by 30%, we are not passing on all of this cost.

Our wonderful Catering Teams do everything we can to make 'school dinner time' as enjoyable as possible and regularly review menu choices. All our menus are fully compliant with the government's School Food Plan. All of our Catering Teams will ensure that all children have a popular and healthy meal choice every day, with options to meet the needs of all age groups and those with notified special dietary requirements.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Nick Hurn, OBE.
Chief Executive Officer

CEO: Mr N Hurn, OBE Barmston Court, Turbine Business Park, Nissan Way, Washington, Sunderland, SR5 3NY
T: 0191 487 7638 | F: 0191 482 4421 | E: info@bwcet.com | bwcet.com

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Registered office: Barmston Court, Washington, Sunderland, SR5 3NY