



7/7/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know about a small increase to school meal prices from September 2026.

Our catering provider, Impact Food Group (IFG), is committed to providing children with healthy, nutritious meals prepared fresh each day. To help maintain the quality of ingredients and service on offer, the price of a paid school meal will increase from September 2026 to £2.78.

We understand that any increase in costs can be difficult for families. However, rising food and operating costs mean this change is necessary to help us continue providing high-quality, nutritious meals for all pupils.

The Free School Meal allowance will increase in September to £3.05, ensuring eligible pupils continue to receive their entitlement in full.

We would also like to highlight an important change to Free School Meal eligibility. From September 2026, children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals under the government's expanded eligibility criteria.

We encourage families to apply if they think they may be eligible, even if:

- Your child currently brings a packed lunch;
- Your child receives Infant Free School Meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2;
- You have applied before and were not eligible; or
- Your circumstances have changed recently.

Registering for Free School Meals not only helps with the cost of school lunches but may also enable the school to access additional funding to support teaching, resources and pastoral care for pupils.

Please note that parents and carers will need to reapply each academic year, even if their child currently receives Free School Meals. Once approved, entitlement will remain in place for the full academic year.

Registering for Free School Meals can help with the cost of lunches and may also enable the school to access additional funding to support pupils.

Applications are quick and confidential and can be made via <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-and-learning/schools/school-meals/>. If you would like support with the application process, please contact the school office. Further information is available on our website: <https://www.meonwayfederation.org.uk/our-federation/parent-information/school-meals/>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Paine

Executive Head Teacher, Meon Way Federation



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