

15 April 2024

Dear Families,

Notification of school meals price increase

I am writing to inform you that the school's lunchtime meal provider, Nourish, has had to make the decision to increase the price of school dinners. This is due to the rising cost of ingredients and kitchen staffing. Over the past few years, we as a school have funded annual increases and held the cost to families at £2.30 per meal, per day, however, due to financial pressures we are unable to do so this year.

This means that from 15 April 2024, the cost of a child's school dinner will be **£2.50** per day or **£12.50** per week; an increase of 20p per day. The actual cost of a meal to the school is £3.00 per day per pupil, but I am pleased to say that Governors have agreed to fund 50p per meal per day using the school's delegated budget as a supportive measure to families.

As you may or may not be aware, the Government have pledged continued support for the Universal Infant Free School Meals grant and this means that all children, from Foundation Stage to Year 2 will continue to be entitled to free school meals. The Government have also agreed to fund the GLA Free School Meals grant for all pupils in years 3 to 6 for the remainder of this academic year and the whole of the 2024/25 academic year. This means that all pupils in years 3 to 6 are also entitled to free school meals.

Paying for meals

Please remember to keep your school meals account topped up as meals are payable in advance. If you have not yet logged on to your School Gateway account, or need help doing so, please let us know. Even if you do not pay for school meals, it is essential that you activate your account as we also use this for school trip payments etc.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed, it is important to ensure that you have applied for Free School Meals as your child may now be entitled. Please click on this link to find out more:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the school's Finance Team on the details below:

Email: finance@riverside.bromley.sch.uk

Telephone: 01689 870519 extension 193

Yours sincerely,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher