



Grove House Primary School, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4ED

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Monday 7th October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to inform you of an upcoming change in school meal prices, which will take effect from **Monday, 4th November 2024**.

Our catering provider, FM Catering & Cleaning Services, has worked tirelessly to maintain the quality of school meals while navigating rising costs. Over the past couple of years, meal ingredient costs have increased by at least 25%, while labour costs have also risen due to increases in the living wage. Despite these pressures, FM Catering has improved efficiency and kept school meal prices among the lowest in the country, ensuring our children receive a nutritious two-course lunch at excellent value.

From November, the cost per meal will increase to £2.35 for Primary schools. This minimal increase helps maintain the high quality of meals your children receive, while also supporting the broader catering service by reducing the impact of rising costs and keeping future increases manageable.

We want to be clear that these price increases are not made by choice, but rather are a necessity to cope with significant inflationary pressures affecting both food ingredients and labour costs. We are committed to keeping prices as low as possible while still ensuring high-quality meals for all students.

It is important to note that there may be another price adjustment in April 2025, as costs continue to rise. We are striving to keep meal costs as low as possible in the present. Our goal is to make these increases as minimal and staggered as possible to lessen the burden on families. We understand that these changes come at a difficult time, and we are doing everything we can to keep costs manageable.

We recognise that any price increase can be challenging, especially in the current economic climate. If your family is struggling financially, please contact the Benefits Service at 01274 432771/2/3 to determine if you may be eligible for free school meals. We want to ensure that every child who is entitled to support can access it.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support during these challenging times. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Summerscales
Headteacher

