



Merridale Primary School

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Date: Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Meal Price January 2024 – a message from Caterlink

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know of changes taking place to the school's catering prices.

As you will be aware, according to the Government's Office of National Statistics – food inflation hit 19.1% in 2023. In respect to other costs associated with school meals, such as labour (and the previous 9.7% rise in labour costs) as well as the future 9.8% increase of the National Living Wage is having a significant impact on costs for catering companies in schools. We have worked hard with our food supply chain to minimise the increase in costs of food through best purchasing, production and waste control. Our commitment to offering varied and nutritious meal options leaves us with no option but to increase the price of our paid meals in school.

Given these ongoing economic pressures, the current meal price (£2.30 per paid meal) is not sustainable. We are mindful of family's budgets and believe we still offer value for money for a 2-course meal, which comes with a salad a fruit bar offered daily in addition to the main meal options. We therefore have no alternative but to increase the cost of a school meal, from 9th January 2024, to **£2.40** per paid meal. This works out at **£12.00 per week** for any Key Stage 2 children who pay for their meal. These changes will be implemented through the school's Gateway payment app from January 2024.

Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Towle
Headteacher