

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to have this opportunity to bring parents up to date with some improvements being made to lunch time arrangements in the summer term.

Perhaps the most significant logistical challenge in a very large school such as ours is making sure all our children benefit from high quality opportunities and experiences. Lunch times are certainly no different in this regard. For example, we have a pretty good idea of what a healthy, safe, respectful and enjoyable lunch time environment looks and feels like for children – but delivering that for every single one of 640 children each day is more challenging; especially when we only have one relatively small school hall.

Below we set out what we are hoping to achieve and the main changes that will be in place after the Easter holidays.

Aims:

- Provide a calm, quiet mealtime experience where good manners are encouraged.
- Clear systems to monitor the development of healthy eating.
- Reduce litter and food waste; ensuring recycling and composting increase.
- Reduce vulnerability and non-inclusion of pupils.
- Promote an environment that fosters respectful behaviours and attitudes.
- Provide the children with more choice of quality play activities on a daily basis.

We also anticipate longer term benefits to pupils’ afternoon energy, effort and concentration resulting from more children consistently eating healthily and hydrating well.

Main Changes:

- The school lunch time will **move to 11.45 – 1.15** (previously 11.45 – 1.00). However, the children will still have an hour to eat lunch and play.
- A ‘Sittings’ system will be introduced to help manage the children’s meals with split play times, providing better access to field and woodland activities for all children.

Lunch Hall

Sitting 1 11.45 – 12.15	Sitting 2 12.15 – 12.45	Sitting 3 12.45 – 1.15
Year R Year 4	Year 1 Year 3 Year 6	Year 2 Year 5

Field & Woodlands

Play Time 1 12.15 – 12.45	Play Time 2 12.45 – 1.15
Year R Year 2 Year 4 Year 5	Year 1 Year 3 Year 6

In order to achieve our aims and ensure the new arrangements work smoothly, many of our support staff team have taken on additional hours to support at lunch times. The kitchen team from Hampshire Caterers have been incredibly supportive and accommodating, as too have our MDSAs; who appreciate the additional adults coming into the lunch time picture. Our children, through the school council, have contributed to the ideas and assemblies have been held to explain the changes in detail and the expectations that accompany these.

Inevitably it will take a little time to embed these arrangements and make adjustments as we work through any difficulties arising from the new system. As with any significant improvement initiative at school we ask for your support and understanding in making the change.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Reilly

