

Newsletter 26th May 2023

Happy Half Term

Here's wishing all Berrywood children and families a happy half term. The weather looks set fair for the week ahead, which hopefully means plenty of opportunities to get outside enjoying activities in the sunshine. Whatever your plans, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable week. The action comes quick and fast upon your return to school the following week, and continues in this vein throughout the final half-term, until the school year ends on the 21st July. We look forward to seeing parents at many of the events, from sports days and performances to project celebrations and special assemblies.

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response to our recent Summer fayre questionnaire. Further information will be published in the week after half term, with a sign-up form for those volunteering their services.

Sports Days

Here are the planned timings:

Date	Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time	Notes
Monday 5 th June	1 & 2	1.15 pm	3.00 pm	Gates open at 1.00pm
Tuesday 6 th June	5 & 6	9.00 am	11.15 am	Parents welcome on field from 8.30am
Wednesday 7 th June	Reception	9.00 am	10.30 am	Parents welcome on field from 8.30am
Thursday 8 th June	3 & 4	9.00 am	11.00 am	Parents welcome on field from 8.30am

Please note that all finish times are estimates. Please also note that there is very limited shade on the field for spectators. Please do bring water bottles with you.

Our aim is for all children to take part in as many of the activities as possible, competing for their house base in a determined but sporting manner. The children earn points for their house bases as they go along, and the winners of the individual sports day competitions are announced in a presentation at the end of each event. In the older age groups, we include the opportunity for relay races... which are quite entertaining affairs.

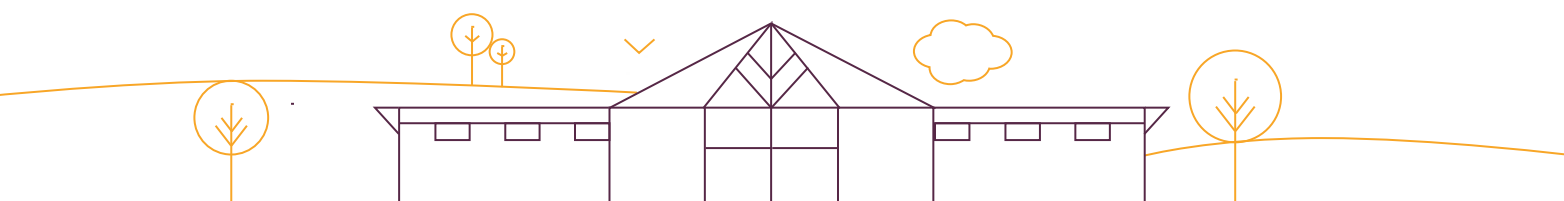
School Meal Price Increases

It is with sadness that we need to inform you of a third price rise in 14 months for school meals. The new cost of a meal will be £3.00 with effect from after half term. Obviously this is a direct result of food price inflation, and we know that HC3S would not be enforcing this rise if they felt they had any alternative.

This cost increase also impacts our school budget negatively. As many of you know, the Government funds 'Universal free School Meals' for all children aged 4-7 (our Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils). What you may not realise is the amount they fund has been fixed at £2.41 per meal for many years. In short this means that the cost difference of 60p per meal has to come from school funds, which are projected to cost Berrywood approximately £15,000 for the '23/24 financial year. Funds, that frankly, should be spent on the children's education, and a situation that calls into question the credibility of the scheme being called *universal* and *free*.

Berries Information...and more bad news

Firstly, the information. Berries places for the next academic year beginning in September will automatically roll over unless you inform us that this is something you no longer need. For families with new younger siblings starting school, we do not automatically provide places so please do let us know if you wish us to make this



addition. If you are in any doubt about the status for your places for September, please do contact the admin team.

Regrettably, we too need to put up our Berries prices in September. This is something we have not done in the six years since 2017. However, rising food and staffing costs mean that this is something we can no longer prevent.

The new cost are as follows: -

Breakfast Berries	£3.75 per session (current price = £3.10)
Afternoon Berries	£9.90 per session (current price = £8.90)

We are confident that this still represents very good value child care in a convenient and well-resourced setting. We are also very confident that compares very favourably with most other settings. Thank you to the families who use our Berries facilities, and hopefully this news is not a deal breaker for you and you understand the cost pressures we face. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank the Berries staff team for their continued dedication and efforts.