

Blossom Federation

Daubeney, Sebright and Lauriston



DATE

Re: School Meal Prices

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter is to inform you that there will be an increase to the cost of school meals at Daubeney & Sebright to **£2.00** per meal from Monday 21st February 2022.

The cost to provide school meals has increased considerably, directly in line with food and operational cost inflation. We have had direct correspondence with our suppliers informing us that labour shortages in the industry with regards to delivery drivers and warehouse staff, wholesale energy prices and fuel prices are all contributing towards this increase. This is set to continue into the foreseeable future with costs likely to increase further in the year. The school budgets themselves cannot sustain these increases.

There have not been any increases to our school meal prices for over ten years and in our recent benchmarking of other Hackney Schools, our costs are still well below the average of around £2.20.

Our schools are passionate about good food which is why we have the *no packed lunch* approach. The average packed lunch does not meet nutritional standards and we are mindful of reducing obesity and future health issues. Nationally, 34% of children are obese by the time they leave primary school at eleven. For Hackney schools, this increases to 42% being defined as clinically obese.

We believe it is the right of every child to enjoy a healthy and nutritious meal every day when they are at school. Our meals are planned in accordance to seasonality and government nutritional guidelines. This includes introducing them to new flavours and ingredients, daily fresh bread, exciting salads and sides. We want the best for all our children and we know how important a healthy lunch is for their learning.

This term we are planning some school lunch workshops so parents and carers can come to school to try the menu and meet the catering teams. We are willing to talk to any parent who has any concerns or whose children have allergies or intolerances.

I am aware that costs of living are increasing for everyone and this is not welcome news, but I hope you will understand this decision.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Warren

Executive Headteacher