

Weston Park Primary School



School Lunch Information

2020-2021

DISCLAIMER:

The information in this guide is intended for the parents of children who will be entering school between September 2020 and July 2021. It was correct at the time of going to press but legislation, Department for Education statutory guidance, and the particular circumstances of the school might create the need for some organisational changes and adjustment of policy.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

At Weston Park Primary School we believe the best option for children at lunchtime is to have a hot school lunch, provided through our partnership with City Catering, Southampton. We expect that parents of children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will take up the option of the Universal Infant Free School Meal. This is because we believe the hot school lunch option is better for the children's learning and health. We recognise the evidence that states:

- Children are better prepared for learning if they eat well
- Children make more progress if they have eaten the right nutritional lunch
- Only 1% of packed lunches provide the correct nutrition
- Eating hot school lunches is an important social occasion and the children learn vital social skills

City Catering, Southampton provide all the nutrients children require through the week. They produce a menu which has a three weekly cycle with three options daily; at least one option each day is a vegetarian option. Details about the menu and more information about City Catering, Southampton is available at: <http://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/southampton/>

Dinner Money (Years 3 - 6 only)

For children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) hot school lunches are available for children eligible for free school meals and as a paid service to all other children.

If you receive income support your child may be eligible for free school meals. Your child may also be eligible for free school meals if you receive certain other benefits. Please ask at the office for details of how to check your eligibility. Alternatively you can check whether you are eligible for free schools meals by visiting the following website: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/southampton/>

If your child is not eligible for free school meals, dinner money is payable **in advance** for the week, month or half-term / term. If your child will only have a school dinner on a couple of days in the week, it is still really helpful if you can pay at the start of the week. The current cost is £2.45 per day (price is correct at time of printing i.e. June 2020 but may be increased in the future). Payment can be made online at: <https://www.scopay.com/login.html>. Please speak to a member of the Admin Team if you do not already have a password to log in.

We encourage all parents to pay online. If you are not able to pay online, cash payments should be brought into school in a sealed envelope with the name of the child and their class written on the front.

Please note that we will not provide a hot school lunch unless payment is received in advance.

Pupil Premium Funding

For every pupil entitled to free school meals the school receives additional funding from the government to boost that child's progress. It is therefore important that all parents (from Year R through to Year 6) who are eligible for free school meals register with the school even if their child chooses to have a packed lunch or is currently entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. Please contact the school office if you think you may be eligible for free school meals.

Questions & Answers

How does the ordering system work?

Each morning, at registration, each pupil will be asked to either:

- order a school lunch OR
- confirm they have brought a packed lunch to school

The children will be asked to choose which meal option they want to order. Once the orders have been taken they are passed to a member of the Admin Team who places the final orders with the kitchen, usually by 10:00am each morning.

All meals are cooked to order and no spare meals are prepared. For this reason it is vitally important that we know exactly how many children require a cooked meal, and which choice they have made.

How do the children know what meals are on offer?

Each class has a display showing the various options available each day.

There is also a mobile app called 'Lunchero' which is free to download and can be used to look at the menu in advance. Search for 'Lunchero' on iTunes or Google Play.

What happens if my child is absent at registration but will return to school before lunch?

Please phone us, or call into the office, in advance and let us know what meal your child would like for that day. There is a list in the office showing the options available. You are welcome to ring before 10:00am on the day or speak to us a day or two earlier, and we will ensure their meal is ordered.

Since no spare meals are prepared, if a meal has not been ordered for your child, and they return to school before lunchtime, they will need to bring a packed lunch with them.

How do you know if all meals ordered are eaten?

The lunchtime supervisors track whether a meal has been ordered but the child has not lined up for the meal. This happens very occasionally if a child orders a meal and then realises they have a packed lunch with them, and they do not cancel their lunch order. In this instance, we will request payment from you, as the food was ordered and prepared for your child. Cancellations are only possible before 10.00am.

What happens if my child did not order a dinner but a mistake was made on the list and one was ordered for them?

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the orders placed with the kitchen. The initial orders are noted by the teachers and then checked and collated in the office before being passed on to the kitchen staff. Checks are made with individual children, when time allows, if there is any doubt that the order is correct. This can happen when children who usually have packed lunches place an order for a cooked meal. If a mistake is found at this stage the order will be corrected before it is passed to the kitchen.

What happens if my child is off site at lunch time for a school trip?

If your child is entitled to free school meals, and they go out on a school trip for the day, a packed lunch will be provided for them by our kitchen. If your child is not entitled to free school meals you will be asked to provide a packed lunch if the children will be off site at lunchtime.

Are there rules about what can be included in a packed lunch?

We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies so **all products in a packed lunch must be nut free. Fizzy drinks and glass bottles are not permitted in school.** The school encourages healthy eating and we encourage all parents to support this ethos when choosing food and drinks for their child's packed lunch.

If you have any other queries about our school dinner system please let us know.