

Fierté Multi-Academy Trust

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Inspiring All to Excellence

22nd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well.

As a Trust, we wholly recognise the financial pressures that have been placed on families over recent years. The cost-of-living crisis has been hugely challenging, and we have tried to play our part by keeping school meal prices as low as possible.

When Covid struck, we made the decision to freeze prices – which was why last year we had the first price increase since 2019. Even with that increase, it still cost us more to produce school meals than we are offering them for. Currently, around 10% of every school meal is being subsidised.

Sadly, this is not something we can continue to do forever. There is a huge amount we want to do for our children, and the cost of subsidising the meals is limiting our ability to do this.

That is why, from September 2024, our school meal will move to £2.85 per lunch for Year Three children onwards. Snack costs will move to 35p. This means that our schools will be asking our parents to pay the same as most other schools in the local area. I want to stress that there is no profit in this, and we have set the price at exactly what it costs us to produce each meal.

We wanted to let you know as early as possible, so you had time to plan for this increase. Children who are in Reception, Year One and Year Two are already entitled to free school meals, we encourage parents to choose for their child to have a school meal.

We also thought it was important to remind you again that children from families on lower incomes and/or are in receipt of benefits are potentially eligible for free school meals after Year 2. However, this is something that you have to apply for rather than it automatically happens. You can do this by speaking to your child's school or visiting the following website - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. We genuinely think there are people paying for meals who may not have to – but we need your help to put that right.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Z Insley

Chair of Trustees

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