



# Oakwood

## Primary School

Achieving Excellence Together

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Dear Parents

### Universal Infant Free School Meals

As you probably already know, we will be providing **free school meals** for **all children** in Years **R, 1** and **2** from September. This is government policy, but it's also something I strongly support.

The **School Food Plan** ([www.schoolfoodplan.com](http://www.schoolfoodplan.com)) sets out the reasons much more clearly than I could hope to do in a letter. A good place to start - less than five minutes of your time! - is to watch [the introductory video](#). (The video is also on our [school website](#).)

You may have heard in the media that some schools aren't ready for this. **We are.**

We have **already** made a lot of the changes recommended by the plan...

- Formed a Pupil SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) to promote healthy eating;
- Scrapped "prison/airline" trays (where your custard went into your gravy!) and replaced them with proper plates;
- Made sure children can sit with their friends whether they are having school dinners or packed lunches;
- Held themed events and special menus;
- Invested in new electronic systems so children can choose their lunch on an interactive dinner register;
- Made menus available online;
- Invested in additional tables and chairs, cutlery trays, salad servers etc;
- Invested in proper "plumbed-in" water coolers around both buildings for children to have access to fresh water.

**City Catering** has also been preparing...

- We have additional ovens, refreshed equipment and well-trained staff;
- Our kitchen has the highest food hygiene rating (5);
- All meals served meet the proper nutritional standards.



## From September...

- Teachers in Key Stage 1 will be spending time in the dining hall with their classes to support lunchtime staff in teaching table manners, helping with collecting meals, making choices, encouraging children to try new foods and "cutting up"...

## How you can help...

- Talk to your child about the change over the summer;
- Ask your children to try new foods;
- Encourage your child to have a school meal every day – or at least try one or two a week.

This new policy saves parents time and money. It also saves disagreements at home about the content of packed lunches, which many parents have reported to us.

A few weeks into the term, we'll invite you in so that you can see how lunchtime works and try the food!

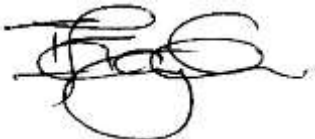
Round about half-term, we'll survey you and your children to find out how it's going, what they like about school meals and what they don't, and how we could improve.

We will still allow children to bring a packed lunch if this is what **you** want. They will still come into the dining hall and eat with their friends as normal. If you definitely want your child to have dinners, but are having difficulty persuading them, please talk to us – it's surprising how quickly children get used to new foods and new procedures when they are eating with their peers.

Our pupil food action group will review our recommendations for the content of packed lunches, so that, if this is your choice, we can advise on how to make them as healthy as possible.

I am fully expecting the vast majority of parents to take up this offer in September – I would like as many of our Year R, 1 and 2 pupils to be eating a school meal at lunchtime as possible, and would welcome your support with this.

Many thanks



Ian Taylor  
Headteacher