



Dear Parents & Carers

Increase in cost of school meals – September 2025

I hope that you are keeping well and looking forward to the summer break.

It is with reluctance that I must inform you that from September 2025, the daily meal price for a main meal and a dessert will increase to **£3.00 daily**.

This price increase is based on the Consumer Price Index, and reflects rising costs associated with providing school meals including recent changes to National Insurance contributions, however we believe that the new price continues to represent great value to families and school staff.

This increase applies to all pupils in year 3 and above from September 2025. If you pay for school dinners using the online payment system, the system will be updated and you will be charged accordingly.

The Government have pledged continued support for the Universal Infant Free School meals scheme, this means that children from Reception to Year 2 will continue to be entitled to free meals.

It will also not affect those children in year 3 and above who already receive free school meals. If you are unsure about your eligibility for free school meals, please speak to the School Office who would be happy to assist you. It is important that if you think you are eligible for free school meals that you apply, as it not only saves you money, but the school will receive additional funding to support pupils who are from families that qualify for free school meals.

If your family is entitled to free school meals but you have previously chosen not to make an application, we would like to invite your child to try school lunches. There are several benefits in taking school meals, including saving time and money and having the peace of mind that your child will receive a warm, balanced meal each day at school.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours faithfully

Claire Love
Chief Financial Officer
Waterton Academy Trust