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8 February 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

### School Meal Price Increase

Unfortunately, Local Kitchen have found it necessary to increase the price of a school meal. Usually, price changes take place at the beginning of the school year and have been subsidised by school in an effort to keep the cost of a meal as low as possible for as long as possible. School however have no alternative but to implement the increase now.

Whilst Local Kitchen endeavour to economise in all areas, the prices have to reflect the pressures imposed on them by extraordinary factors such as the cost increase from their suppliers, and to enable them to provide the required level of amenity, maintain legal compliance and ensure the sustainability and continuity of the service.

As a result, the cost of school meals for children in Y3 – Y6 will increase to £2.41 following the return to school after the February 2024 half term.

There will continue to be no change to Universal Infant Free School Meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

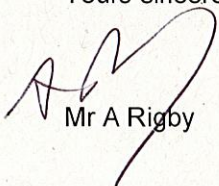
Please be reassured that, we will continue to assess the meals to ensure that their quality is maintained.

Recently, a number of parents and carers of children in school have applied for free school meals and been successful in being awarded them. Many had previously believed they would not qualify so did not apply.

The process to apply is fully automated and is on-line. You make your application at [www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals). You will receive immediate confirmation to confirm if you are or are not eligible. We would strongly encourage you to apply.

Please do not be confused by Universal Free School Meals. Although all children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a school meal at no cost to the parent it is different from Free School Meals. If you have a child in Reception Class, Year 1 or Year 2 and believe you might qualify for free school meals please follow the link [www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) and put in an application for free school meals.

Yours sincerely

  
Mr A Rigby



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