

Ryedene Primary School and Nursery

'Growing together to succeed'

Ryedene, Off Clover Way,

Vange, Basildon, Essex. SS16 4SY

Telephone: 01268 559291

E-Mail: admin@ryedene.essex.sch.uk

Web site: www.ryedene.essex.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr A. Toomer

Chair of Governors: Mr S. Robson



LEE CHAPEL
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

School Dinners

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: School Meal Price Increase

I am writing to inform you that, following careful consideration, the Governing Body and I have made the decision to increase the cost of school meals from **£2.20 to £2.50 per day** (£12.50 per week), with effect from **Monday 2nd November 2026**.

We recognise that any increase in household costs is significant, particularly at a time when many families are experiencing financial pressures. This decision has therefore not been taken lightly. We have worked hard to keep the cost of school meals as low as possible, and this is the first increase in three years.

Despite this increase, school meals still represent excellent value for money and are well below the national average cost of £2.95 per day.

However, rising energy costs, together with significant increases in food, and other catering-related costs, mean that the current price is no longer sustainable. The increase is necessary to ensure that we can continue to provide a high-quality school meal service, without placing an unsustainable financial burden on the school's budget.

Our catering team provides freshly prepared, balanced meals cooked on the school premises, with a three-week rolling menu offering a variety of choices each day, including a vegetarian option. The current menu is available on our school website.

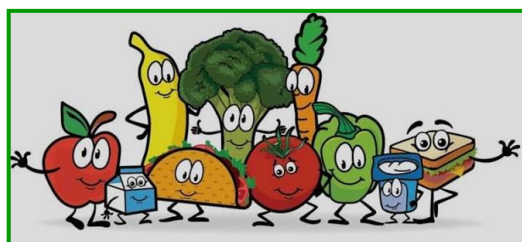
We are also pleased that Government-funded school meal provision continues to support families. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. Children in Years 3 - 6 may also be eligible for **benefits-related Free School Meals**, depending on their family's circumstances. **If you would like further information about eligibility, please contact the school office.**

Most importantly, **we do not want financial circumstances to prevent any child from having a school meal.** If you are experiencing difficulties with payment, please contact the school office as soon as possible. All enquiries will be treated **confidentially and sensitively**, and we will work with families wherever possible to find a suitable solution.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We remain committed to providing our children with nutritious, high-quality meals while ensuring that our catering provision remains financially sustainable.

Kind regards,

Mr A. Toomer
Head of School



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Primary Engineer



Schoolreaders
Improving literacy • increasing the chances
We're a Partner School

