



'Living life to the full'

## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington,

Wigan, Lancashire, WN6 9RE

Telephone 01257 423092

Headteacher – Miss V Gleeson

Email: [school.info@st-josephs-wrightington.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:school.info@st-josephs-wrightington.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-josephs-wrightington.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs-wrightington.lancs.sch.uk)

08.05.24

Dear parents,

I am writing to inform you of the increase in cost for school dinners as of 1<sup>st</sup> June.

A letter from Lancashire County Council Catering Services included general explanatory notes for the basis of the rise in costs:

### Direct Labour Costs

The Foundation Living Wage (FLW) is set to increase by 10.09% in April 2024. As in previous years, the increase will exceed the pay rate applied to Grade 3 and some Grade 4 Unit Catering Supervisors until such a time as the 2024/25 local government pay award is known. In the interim, the service is working on proposals to retain a pay differential between supervisors and general assistants.

The 2024-25 local government pay award is being forecast at 3% increase. Therefore, the combined effect of recovering the confirmed Foundation Living Wage increase, the anticipated 2024-25 pay award and resultant on cost increases will be applied to meal charges.

### Food and Food Costs

Food inflation continues to contribute to service costs. The overall rate of inflation continues to decline in line with broader inflationary measures. Food inflation fell from 19% April 2023 to 6.9% January 2024 however, it is noted that whilst there is a reduction in inflation, food costs continue to increase.

To contain food inflation impacts, it has been necessary to restrict kitchen purchases to items contained within the published menu offering. It is appreciated schools may wish to receive food items which are not contained within the published menus and where this is the case, additional items may be added for purchase providing the additional cost will be met by the school.

Supplier price review meetings have been conducted with Lancashire contracted food and sundry suppliers, resultantly leading to a combined inflationary impact exceeding 5%. Increases have affected certain food types more than others and menus have been designed to limit these



impacts, while also remaining compliant to applicable standards. Whilst an element of food inflation will have to be recovered, the inflationary effect will be limited to 3%.

In light of this we will be increasing our pupil meal cost from £2.50 to £2.80, as of 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will be reviewed in the next academic year.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

*Miss Gleeson*

Miss Gleeson  
Headteacher

