

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the recent school meal questionnaire.

Feedback is an invaluable tool in helping us monitor and improve our service, so please rest assured we've taken note of everything raised by you.

One trend from the feedback was a lack of understanding around our current menu, so we wanted to provide information for you.

We have a three-week menu with a large variety of food served each day. This includes two hot main courses, jackets with a variety of fillings, hot tomato pasta, and sandwiches – also with a variety of fillings. Every week there is a roast dinner on a Wednesday, fish & chips on a Friday, meat free Mondays (typically pizza and other choices) with Tuesday and Thursdays open for a wider variety of meals, such as cottage pie, noodle dishes. Other children's favourites such as macaroni cheese or sausage and mash are also included.

In addition to the main course items, children are encouraged to choose at least one of the three types of vegetable to complement their meal. Alternatively, there is a salad bar, typically with cold pasta, a selection of salad items and fresh bread that the children are able to self-serve to complement and top up their meal options. There is no limit to the amount of fruit and salad children can take, but we do ask that they eat whatever is taken, in order to reduce unnecessary food waste.

Desserts include a yoghurt or cake/biscuit/crumble option with fruit slices available as a pudding on its own or as a complement to any of the desserts.

We find that the children who take advantage of the multiple vegetable options, the salad bar, and fruit, are fully sustained throughout the day. We always try to encourage the children who often limit their choice to try new food and utilise the salad bar. If a child is still hungry after finishing what is on their plate, children can return to the salad bar or counter and ask for extra vegetables and fruit.

While children can select their meals within the classroom on a morning, you can also access our digital meal ordering system at home and select your child's meal alongside them for the entire week. Ordering at home helps reduce the time spent on the register in the classroom; aids the kitchen with production numbers; reduces food waste and provides you reassurance that your child is eating a varied diet. If you need further information on how to access the meal ordering system from home, please contact the school reception.

We're passionate about feeding every child a nutritious and delicious meal, as well as improving all children's relationship with food and working with parents. If you have a specific request or slight tweak you would like to make to reinforce positive choices, please do let us know.

We have started a new menu starting after Easter with lots of exciting new dishes, which presents a fantastic opportunity for children to try some new dishes. Please ask at the school reception should you wish to view the menu. Alternatively, you can view the daily menu via the online ordering system. Please take time to sit with your child/children to look at the menu and use the meal ordering system to pre-order meals. Children who try new foods will be rewarded with Dojos for doing so.

We will always ensure a child has a meal to fuel their learning so if they don't like their option, they can bring their tray back to the service area to select something else.

We have a large number of families taking advantage of the free school meals however we would like to remind parents that all children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals.

Once again, thank you for your support and feedback.

Kind Regards

The Chartwells Team

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