

24 September 2019

Dear Parents

SCHOOL MEALS

At a recent Governing Body meeting, the provision of school meals was discussed.

From 4 November 2019, there will be some changes to the school meals provided at Welton Primary School:-

- Parents must decide whether they would like their child/children to have a hot school meal every day or a packed lunch every day, for the entire half term i.e. there will no longer be an option to have a mixed meal pattern.
- There will no longer be a sandwich option available.

We will continue to offer parents the option of changing from packed lunch to a hot school meal every half term, and we will obviously continue to cater for any dietary requirements as necessary.

The decision to make these changes has not been made lightly, and has been made for a variety of reasons:-

- Due to the low numbers, school sandwiches are no longer viable as there is a lot of waste, for example we have to purchase a large packet of ham but may only have 2 sandwiches to make. Regulations are that we are not allowed to freeze the remainder of the ham and therefore it has to be thrown out.
- The administration of the meals is becoming a disproportionate financial cost to the school due to the very high administrative demands placed on the school office due to daily updates and changes outside of the half termly pattern requests.
- The cost of the school meal provision is currently being supported by the school budget, which is neither sustainable nor appropriate. This is the cost of food, staffing and other expenditures against the actual income received from the government for Universal Infant Free School Meals and the income received from parents.
- Providing the school catering team with a consistent number of meals to be provided each week over a half term will enable them to work and plan more efficiently, ensuring the high quality school meals are sustainable.

The Governors will be holding a parent surgery based around the school meal provision on Monday 30 September 2019, between 3.00pm – 3.30pm and 5.00pm and 5.30pm, and if you would like a five minute appointment please email office@weltonprimaryschool.com with the questions you would like to ask.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Pidgeon

Head Teacher