

Alderwood Primary School

Rainham Close, Eltham, London, SE9 2JH

Tel: 020 8850 6841 Fax: 020 8850 6011

Email: headteacher@alderwood.greenwich.sch.uk

Website: www.alderwood.greenwich.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Jo Gordon

Co-Heads of School: Katie Cutajar and Natasha Tilley



Monday 26th February 2018

Dear Parents

School Meal provision

Our kitchen continues to provide a healthy hot meal at lunch time at school for all children who wish to take it. Children in Reception to Year 2 do not pay for this meal as the Government currently funds this via the **Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) Initiative**, together with the children throughout the school whose parents are in the receipt of the benefits making them eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)**.

For the remainder of the school (children in Years 3-6) where children take a hot lunch and parents pay for their children's meal, the current daily charge to parents is £2.00. This has been heavily subsidised by the school in the past as the actual charge to the school by our catering provider GS Plus is £2.59 per meal. From the information we have from Central Government, it is clear that school budgets will continue to be significantly reduced, and we can no longer justify continuing this subsidy. With budgets so tight, I am sure that you will agree that it is very important to provide best value for money for all our children at school.

This being the case, we have decided to increase the price of school meals in stages until it is in line with the price the school is being charged per meal. From 16th April, the daily charge of a school meal will increase to £2.40 (£12 per week) and from September 2018, it will further increase to £2.59 (£12.95 weekly).

We would also like to take this opportunity of reminding parents of children in Year 2 that meals taken at school will be payable once children move to Year 3. From September, we request parents of children in the Autumn Term Year 3 to please make payments in advance using the AGORA online payment system.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Those considered eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)** as a result from the benefits they receive help to boost the school's income, as one of the indicators in determining school's budgets by Central Government is the number of children eligible for FSM. If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits you may be eligible for Free School Meals:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income based Employment Allowance
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999



A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number: 10360957)

www.compass-partnership.uk

Alderwood - Deansfield - Halstow - Horn Park
South Rise - Willow Dene - Wingfield

Senior Executive Head Teacher of The Compass Partnership: John Camp

- Pensions credit (if in receipt of Child Tax Credit at a higher rate than the basic family element)
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) with a household income below the relevant threshold (household income is no more than £16,190)
- Child Tax Credit (at a higher rate than the basic family element)

If you are in receipt of one of the benefits overleaf, and have yet to apply for FSM, we are happy to make an online application on your behalf. For us to do so, please provide:

Your own name and date of birth: _____

Your NI Number _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s) and date(s) of birth _____

and return this form to the school office. You may meet the criteria for FSM shown overleaf but have not thought of applying. Even if you do not currently pay for your child's meal if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, by applying for FSM, you would establish your child's claim to have a free meal when they move to year 3, as well as later in school when travelling on residential school journey. Your child would also be eligible for a free carton of milk at school if they wish to take it. From the schools point of view, your successful application would also help maximise our budget from Central Government.

We must stress that children in receipt of FSM eligibility are treated no differently at school – this is purely an administrative process. **Children in Nursery may also be eligible even though they do not lunch at school**; if you are in receipt of one of the benefits listed overleaf, please also apply by providing the information in the box above.

We will keep the situation under review, to determine whether GS Plus continues to be the best provider in terms of the meals it supplies and the costs charged. If we feel that a change in provider is the best option, we will keep you advised. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Cutajar
Co-head of School

Miss N Tilley
Co-head of School