

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Lunchtime Meals Cost Increase**

It is with regret that I am writing to inform you about plans to increase the costs of school meals from £2.10 (Greenwich and Medway) £2.15 (Croydon) to £2.41 per meal from the 1st March 2023. We strongly objected to the increase by the current catering provider, which they say is due to the unprecedented inflation related food procurement costs, and we will continue to work closely with them to review this.

I fully appreciate the impact this increase in school meals will have on families. I would like to reassure you we are doing all we can to review our current position with the catering provider and as such we are now subsidising the costs which would otherwise have increased further and we are reviewing the options including the potential to re-tender the catering contract with a new provider in time for the new academic year. Additionally, every school in the Inspire Partnership is working hard to explore ways of supporting families who are adversely affected by the general increase in the cost of living. This includes establishing food banks and supporting local food poverty reduction initiatives.

Please be aware that families who are eligible for free school meals will be unaffected by this price increase and we encourage all those who may qualify for free school meals to register for this with your school. You can check your eligibility on the Royal Borough of Greenwich website or with the school office.

Please be aware that families who are eligible for free school meals will be unaffected by this price increase and we encourage all those who may qualify for free school meals to register for this with your school. If you have any questions or concerns relating to the food costs, I would encourage you to talk to your child's teacher or a trusted member of staff. We are very keen to support individual families in any way we can.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes



Rob Carpenter (Trust Leader Inspire Partnership)