

# Learning together to be the best we can be

Headteacher - Nichola Irving



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Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, when the children returned to school for full opening in September, we were only able to offer school packed lunches which typically include a sandwich, a drink, fruit, yogurt and biscuits/cake.

The rationale behind this was based on the following:

## 1. Maintaining consistent bubbles

Pre-Covid 19, we would serve hot dinners in three sittings over the lunch period which meant several year groups in the hall at one time. To prevent the mixing of bubbles, we can only have one year group in the hall at one time with cleaning regimes in-between.

With this in mind, the three sittings were allocated to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on the principal that these children would find it more difficult to eat their dinner in the classroom with minimal mess.

## 2. Staffing

Pre-Covid 19, at lunchtimes we staffed a dinner hall and three yards. We now have to staff every classroom and dinner hall and direct some staffing capacity to lunchtime cleaning of shared areas and classrooms whilst also allowing staff time to take a lunch break themselves.

We are obviously keen to be able to provide a hot dinner option for children. Once systems and routines were established, we felt we were in a position to offer these to children who were accessing the dinner hall and therefore food could be served hot from the hatch without the need for transporting it to classrooms. This decision was also made in light of the fact that all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal.

I am aware that some parents are unhappy with the KS2 children not having the option of a hot meal. I too would love to be able to offer hot dinners to all who want them and operate as we did pre Covid-19, however for the reasons above, this is just not possible.

On Thursday, we trialled delivering a hot option to KS2 pupils. This was well received by children but did require additional staffing capacity and it was all hands on deck. The range of meals we can provide in this style is limited whilst balancing the requirements of the School Food Standards. However, we are considering offering this once or twice a week to KS2 children whilst we continue to operate with current restrictions.



We are limited as to what we can offer but would welcome your views moving forward, in order to do this we would be grateful if you could complete the Google Survey Form by following this link.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1p22dRwkGKqs2JOquN9KepJrZ8-irMwX7MUThcbz0WoY/edit>

Thank you for continuing to support us as we work in these very strange times.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Irving". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Irving".

Nichola Irving  
Headteacher