



Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, we are now working with Aspens as our new school meals providers.

Whilst we are largely very pleased with the service the children have received so far, the transition has seen some teething problems which we are working with Aspens to resolve as swiftly as possible.

Sandwiches

We had originally planned to include an offer of sandwiches on the menu later on in the year. However, they were mistakenly added to the menu earlier than was intended. Once this had been identified, the sandwiches were then taken down from the menu causing much understandable frustration.

We have now agreed that sandwiches be reinstated to the menu, with a slightly simpler offer of options and hope that this will encourage more children to take up their school lunches.

Allergens

One of the reasons that we appointed Aspens as providers was the more bespoke approach they take to providing menus for children with allergies and intolerances. Rather than providing a single 'allergies menu', each child with dietary needs is able to access a broader range of choices than before.

We had hoped that the online ordering system would fully support this but it does not at this time. This is something that the Aspens team are currently working on and we look forward to developments soon. Please be assured though that robust systems are in place in the kitchen to ensure that no child with an allergy or intolerance is provided with food that they should not have. If your child does have an allergy or intolerance and you have not yet informed us, please do so immediately and the Aspens team will contact you to plan a bespoke menu for your child.

Cost

Whilst we are no longer able to offer free meals on Fridays to those pupils eating school dinners every day, we are very pleased to have agreed to fix the current price of lunches for at least the next three years.

Accessible Support

Finally, if you do have any challenges with ordering your child's lunches or require any other support with the service, Beccy Robinson – Area Manager for Aspens – is very happy to be approached. Her email is: beccyrobinson@aspens-services.com

Likewise, if you have any concerns that you would prefer to speak with school staff about, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With very best wishes,

Chris Chislett
Headteacher