



01/12/2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

We understand that many families are feeling the impact of rising living costs. Over the past 12 months, we have kept school meal prices unchanged. However, the catering industry has faced significant cost pressures, including:

- **Food inflation:** Monthly increases, reaching 5.1% in August 2025
- **Labour costs:** A further 6% rise, mainly due to living wage adjustments
- **National Insurance changes:** New thresholds from April 2025 have added unexpected strain

Despite these challenges, we have worked hard to keep the increase as low as possible, and in line, if not below, most other Bradford schools.

From 1 January 2026, the price of a school meal will be:

- **Primary pupil meal £2.55**

This ensures we can continue providing healthy, high-quality meals for your children.

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

We want to support our families in any way that we can and so if your circumstances have changed, or perhaps you haven't done it previously, and you would like to check if your child qualifies for free school meals, please contact your school office who will provide you with the relevant paperwork or you can do this via the Bradford Council website:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

You can apply for school meals if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit
- the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400

Whilst all children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 receive a free school meal, it is still important to check if you are eligible.



**Cottingley
Village**

Primary School

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Thank you for your understanding and continued support. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kirsty Hutchinson
Head Teacher