

## **Desford Community Primary School**

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Headteacher: Mr Colin Wilson



## Monday 25th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: School dinner menu updates and lunchtime staff needed.

We have just reached the end of the first cycle of the new 3-week menu that our fantastic kitchen staff have designed and launched at the start of term. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of meals being served, with 40-50 more children having a hot school meal every day. Having completed this first cycle, the catering staff now have a better idea about the popularity of each menu choice, and this knowledge will further increase as we enter each 3-weekly cycle. This will help with food ordering and in catering accurately for what the children would like. The most up to date menu is saved and updated on the 'School Dinners' section of the website, under the 'Parents' heading. Click here to view that page.

Since the start of term, we have been speaking to the children about the new menu and asking their opinion on whether they think the meals are worse, the same or better than last year. Without exception, every child has said that they prefer the meals this year. The most popular reasons given for this has been that they get to choose from three options. Quality and choice for the children are therefore our top priorities.

With the number of meals served being so high, there have been 2 or 3 occasions where one of the three meal options has run out before the end of service. We apologise if this has been the case for your child, but as with any catering service, there is always a chance that this may happen. We are however introducing further measures to minimise the chances of this happening. Children will soon be making their meal choice in class in the morning so that the catering staff have a more accurate number of how many of each option to prepare. We understand that sometimes children will change their mind, so we will always prepare a few more of each option to cater for this. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

## **LUNCHTIME STAFF NEEDED – JOB OPPORTUNITY**

On a related issue, with the number of children on roll continuing to rise, we are looking for new staff to work at lunchtimes to facilitate a kind and respectful atmosphere in the dinner hall and outside on the playground. If you are interested in working in a school in another capacity, this can be a good way of gaining experience that leads to other job opportunities in our school. If you are interested, please contact the school office to register your interest.

Kind regards

Mr C Wilson Head Teacher





