



Dear Parent / Carer

## PAID-FOR SCHOOL MEALS – KEY STAGE 2

Throughout Key Stage 1, all children are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal, and we hope that your child has taken full advantage of, and enjoyed a nutritious healthy meal, saving over £400 a year.

St Mary's Academy Trust provides in-house catering for your school and, due to rising costs, has had to review the price of a paid-for school meal.

A survey has found that the average price of paid-for school meals is expected to increase to an average of £2.65 in 2023. However, the trust believes that such an increase would disadvantage those who miss out on free school meal eligibility. The trust is committed to ensuring that no child goes hungry, and every child has access to a school meal.

The trust does not aim to profit from the provision of school meals and continues to subsidise the true cost of providing a quality healthy and nutritious meal, however it has become necessary to implement a gradual increase.

Whilst an increase in the cost of a paid-for meal is never welcome, you can be assured that school meals continue to offer parents/carers good value for money and takes the hassle out of providing an alternative healthy and nutritious packed lunch, saving you time and money on increasing supermarkets costs.

- From **September 2023** the price of a paid-for school meal will rise from £2.20 to **£2.30** (An increase of 4.5%)
- From **April 2024** the price of a paid-for school meals will increase from £2.30 to **£2.35**
- From **September 2024** the price of a paid-for school meals will rise from £2.35 to **£2.40** (10% below the current average price)

Choosing school meals supports your child's learning and development, improving educational attainment, social skills and valuable life skills and the trust welcomes your continued support.

To find out more information on **free school meals**, the qualifying criteria and how to apply, please visit the councils website at [www.barnsley.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/free-school-meals) or call (01226) 787787 (select option 3).

Yours faithfully

St Mary's Academy Trust

