



St. John's CE Primary School

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School Dinner Prices from February 27th 2023

Dear parents / carers,

We have received the following information from our School Meals provider, Chartwells.

Due to the continuing unprecedented inflationary pressures on food and labour, school meal prices will cost £2.83 after the February half term.

The primary driver behind the aggressive inflation we all face continues to be the ongoing war in Ukraine and subsequent sanctions against Russia, which have been further exacerbated by the current volatile economic situation.

This is reflected by the Consumer Price Index, which was widely reported as rising to a 40 year high of 11.1% in October. While the headline rate dipped to 10.5% in December, the food and non-alcoholic beverage category increased to 16.8%, representing the sharpest increase since September 1977, particularly driven by surges in the price of eggs, milk, and cheese which are fundamental raw materials used in school catering.

Chartwells have continued to review their offer in line with inflation whilst still maintaining the school food standards yet despite the ongoing efforts to mitigate inflation, through product swaps, negotiations with suppliers, and evolving the menu, the impact of such inflation on a school meal requires a further increase.

Added to the food inflation affect, the incoming 9.7% national minimum wage increase from April 1st and the impact of the Harpur Trust court ruling, also directly impacts the school meal price.

Entrust expects this to be the last rise until at least after the summer break, and Chartwells have agreed, within reason, to manage the risk of further inflation during this period.

As a school we would encourage anyone who thinks they may be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of the class your child is in, to apply. Information can be found on both the Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council websites, or via Gov.uk.

Sarah Stone
Headteacher

"SHINE like the star you are."

