



July 2024

Dear parents and carers,

STAR EATS School Meals – update on menus & meal prices

At the start of 2022/23 academic year The STAR Multi-Academy Trust was proud to launch STAR EATS, our new school meals service, which continues to be dedicated to providing our children with tasty, nutritional meals that can help keep them energised throughout the day.

By bringing our school meals in-house, we have been able to better involve parents, young people and staff in developing our menus; we can choose where we source our food supplies; and we can better integrate food education and cooking into our curriculum. In 2024 STAR EATS will also grow and will support Sherburn High School in delivering school meals.

We are pleased to say that STAR EATS has been hugely successful and continues to grow, we have received consistently positive feedback from children, parents/carers and school staff across the year. On the back of this feedback we are also launching a new primary school menu. This will include the addition of **STAR Bakery** and **STAR Spuds** which will provide alternative options to the traditional school meal.

As we approach the end of the summer term, we also want to make you aware of a price increase which will take effect from the beginning of term in September 2024.

Across the Trust we remain committed to delivering the same high-quality menus, offering the great variety and the same generous portion sizes for children next year and beyond. However, as with other school meal providers we have been impacted by the continued increase in costs of supplies and staff.

We are aware that the inflation and the cost of living also impacts families, so we have worked hard to keep any increases to the absolute minimum. However, we feel it is important to be fully transparent and to let you know that there will be a price increase from September.

Feedback is always welcome. If you have any further questions or suggestions on how we can improve this new service please contact us on STAREATS@starmat.uk

Kind Regards
Rob Holah
Head of Facilities & Estates

FAQs:

How much will each meal cost?

The new meal price will increase to £2.80 for years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and to £2 per nursery meal. Children in reception, years 1 and 2 will continue to have their meals free of charge through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

Why have the prices gone up again?

The increase in the price of each meal reflects an increase in inflation, costs for produce, as well as staffing costs. We have kept this increase as low as possible.

We appreciate that price increases are never welcome; however, we believe that the quality of food and the wider educational value that the children receive as a result of the Star Eats catering service continues to demonstrate good value for money.