



English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School



Sizer Street
Preston
PR1 7DR
Headteacher: Mrs. A. Howarth
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Thursday 27th March 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have received an important update about the cost of school meals and Free School Meals which could affect lots of families!

School Meals

We have been informed by LCC Catering, who provide our fabulous team of kitchen staff and school lunches, that the cost of school meals is increasing to between £2.70 - £2.90 per meal. A significant increase, I am sure you will agree! The increase is to cover the general increase in the buying of ingredients and the rise in the Living Wage.

We are looking at how we can keep the increase to a minimum whilst still being able to provide the great standard of meals we are all used to!

However, at the moment, our outstanding school lunch bill is a staggering **£4,558** this is money which school are having to pay out of school funds. So if you have an outstanding balance, please come and chat and we can sort out a re-payment scheme. Thank you.

Which leads onto the next important update...

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Children in Year 3 and above **MUST** pay for school meals unless they are eligible for Free School Meals. Being eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) doesn't just mean you don't pay for school meals in school, it also means the FSM Vouchers which are sent home each holiday and are worth £15 a week. ALL children who are on the FSM list receive these, even if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 (where you have Universal Free School Meals).

Unfortunately, if you are not registered for FSM, you cannot receive a voucher, which can be a loss of additional support as it also includes free places for the Holiday Activity Clubs.

School, and your child, also benefit from being eligible for FSM as we receive additional funding. We use this funding in many ways, including being able to reduce costs of trips and activities for those eligible.

I urge you to contact LCC Free School Meals ASAP as from 1st April 2025, the rules are changing!





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From 1st April 2025, the entitlement to FSM will end if household income increases to over £7,400 a year over a 3 month period (e.g. more than £1,850 income in the last 3 Universal Credit assessment periods).

If you register NOW, the entitlement to FSM will not change even if your income increases and they will continue to be entitled to FSM until they leave school (at Year 11).

So, it does make a huge difference to you, your family and school.

Please, please contact LCC FSM today to see if you are entitled. It is quick and easy to do and takes no time at all!

Contact details are:

01772 531809

Or

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

Please feel free to come into school and we can help you if needed.

We don't want anyone to miss out on this!

Kind regards,

Annalisa Howarth
Headteacher

