

10th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am just writing to update you on the changes for lunchtime that we have recently introduced.

In the summer, we reviewed the health and safety of our lunchtime procedures as we have over 400 children accessing the school hall and the playground during the lunchtime period. This large number of children accessing the playground at the same time, led to fallouts between some children that then disrupted learning in the afternoon. We were also issuing a high number of bump notes and in addition, there was a large number of children not finishing their lunch as they preferred to play outside.

In order to review our lunchtime procedures we worked alongside School Health UK.

The following procedures were introduced;

- We introduced three separate sittings in the school hall to create a more social atmosphere and to reduce the number of children on the playground at one time. Each class has allocated tables but the children can choose who they sit next to.
- We rearranged the dining tables to provide a better dining space that looked more like a bistro. This helps to develop positive friendships and social interactions, as it allows the children to chat to their friends at lunchtime whilst eating their lunch.
- We encouraged the children to be more independent, as they are now able to pour their own drinks and the cutlery is available on the table. This is similar to a restaurant and teaches the children skills for when they eat out.
- We ensured there was enough time for the children to enjoy their lunch and equally enough time for them to play outside, as both are important parts of the lunchtime experience. This also ensured there were less children on the playground at one time.
- We created zones in the playground, so that the children had a wider range of activities to choose from. This included a well-being zone where children can have some quiet time, a sports zone with a sports coach, a dance area with music being played, an equipment zone with different equipment each day and the trim trails.

As a result of this we have seen the following positive changes;

- The dinner hall is a calm place for the children to chat with their friends and enjoy the social aspect of lunch.
- Queues to get into the dinner hall and to collect lunch are greatly reduced as the children go up for

their lunch one table at a time. This means the children have more time to chat and play with their friends.

- There are minimal disruptions to afternoon lessons as there are now less lunchtime incidents.
- There has been a significant reduction in the amount of bump notes that are being issued. This is due to the fact that the children now have more space to play outside as less children are accessing the playground at one time.
- We have significantly reduced the amount of food being thrown away as the children understand that they have an allocated time in the hall, and this means they can relax and enjoy their food.

The children have been absolutely wonderful in adapting to these changes. They have approached the new lunchtime routine with their usual enthusiasm and are a credit to you.

We are sure that this new routine will continue to improve the lunchtime experiences for our children and we appreciate your support and patience with these changes.

Kind regards

Tracy Webley
Headteacher

