



Bentham Community  
Primary School

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22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents

### **Payment for School Meals : Summer 2019 : IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

As we are sure parents/carers are more than aware, budget constraints on schools are tighter than ever, with finances predicted to become tighter still over future academic years. At Bentham Community Primary School we endeavour to support families with budgeting for such activities as swimming, residential visits and school trips by providing parents/carers with plenty of notice and the opportunity to pay smaller instalments towards the full cost of an activity at any one time. In addition, school continues to financially subsidise the majority of opportunities and experiences provided to children.

However, unfortunately, despite several reminders and requests via the Friday News there are still a number of parents who have balances outstanding on their child's dinner money accounts, balances that in some instances have been outstanding for years! Following a recent review of the school's finances, it has been decided that the school will have to move forwards on the basis of any other retail outlet, in that payment will have to be made for meals prior to their being eaten.

With this in mind, can we please request that ALL parents/carers ensure that their child's dinner money account is either at a ZERO or CREDIT balance by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. At the commencement of the Summer Term, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, we would request that parents/carers make payment **up-front** for meals taken, in order to help with planning, costs involved will be, as follows:-

Summer Dates	Nursery	Reception, Years 1 and 2	Years 3,4,5 and 6
Weekly	£10.00	FREE	£12.25
30/04/19 to 24/05/19 (Half-Term) – 18 days	£36.00	FREE	£44.10
30/04/19 – 19/07/2019 (Term) – 53 days	£106.00	FREE	£129.85

As can be seen from the above, meals will continue to be priced at £2.00 per day for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and £2.45 per day for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Payment is only deducted from a Parentpay Account when a meal is taken by a child and any credits on an account are either carried forward, transferred to an alternative service, or refunded when a child leaves Bentham Community Primary School.  
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As a school, we do understand that there may be occasions when parents/carers are struggling to meet outstanding payments for school meals. If this is the case, then please do not hesitate to contact the school in order that a mutually acceptable re-payment plan can be investigated. Alternatively, it may be that you are eligible for Free School Meals? Advice, guidance and application forms for Free School Meals are all available from the School Office – please be reassured that any enquiries will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Failure to contact the school about non-payment may result in an outstanding debt being referred to North Yorkshire County Council’s Legal Team.

The Governing Body together with myself, have been working alongside our Catering Team to improve meal choices made to children. Please find attached to this letter, a copy of the Summer Term menu. We are asking parents/carers to pre-order their child’s meal choices at the start of the Summer Term (April 19). This is a trial for the first half of the Summer term and will be reviewed. As a school, we would very much appreciate parents/carers feedback.

Finally, if you have any queries or concerns in connection with any of the content of this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Pearson  
Headteacher

