

Dear Parent/carer,

We would like to remind you that West Rainton Primary provides a school meal service offering hot, nutritionally balanced meals, freshly prepared and cooked on the school premises.

Over the last 10 years Durham County Council has been able to subsidise the price of school meals and keep the cost low while continuing to provide a high quality meal. This was due to subsidies from Durham County Council; the national Free School Meal Pilot from 2009 to 2011; and a grant from health partners between 2011 to 2014.

Unfortunately this funding has come to an end and it is now necessary to increase the price to meet the full cost of a school meal.

On return from the Easter break 22^{nd} April school meals will be offered at £1.95 per day which represents excellent value compared to neighbouring authorities that charge on average £2.10 per meal.

The meals are produced by catering firm Taylor Shaw and offer a choice from 3 main courses and 3 desserts per day. Each meal is developed to ensure the right amount of protein, carbohydrates, fruit and vegetables is available while avoiding confectionary and artificially-sweetened drinks, with limits on the fat, salt and sugar content in each meal.

The good news is that from September 2014 if your child or children attends an infant school or infant classes from reception to Year 2 then school meals will be free to them. The success of the Free School Meal pilot in Durham has influenced a Government policy decision to make funds available to ensure that all infant children can access a free school meal.

So make sure your child gets the healthy option, the menus can be found on our school http://westrainton.itss-durham.org.ukand the County Council website www.durham.gov.uk/schoolmeals.

Don't forget that if your child has a special dietary requirement (supported by a Medical Practitioner) then this can still be provided for.

Thank you

Alison McDonough

Headteacher