



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY TRUST

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Dear Parent / Carer

PAID-FOR SCHOOL MEALS – KEY STAGE 2

Throughout Key Stage 1, all children are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal, and we hope that your child has taken full advantage of, and enjoyed a nutritious healthy meal, saving over £400 a year.

St Mary's Academy Trust provides in-house catering for your school and, due to rising costs, has had to review the price of a paid-for school meal.

A survey by LACA found that the average price of paid-for school meals was expected to increase to an average of £2.65 in 2023.

The trust does not aim to profit from the provision of school meals and continues to subsidise the true cost of providing a quality healthy and nutritious meal. In September 2023 the Trust proposed to implement a gradual increase and the price of a paid meal rose to £2.30, however it has become necessary to increase the price of a paid meal further.

Whilst an increase in the cost of a paid-for meal is never welcome, you can be assured that school meals continue to offer parents/carers good value for money and takes the hassle out of providing an alternative healthy and nutritious packed lunch, saving you time and money on increasing supermarkets costs.

- From **April 2024** the price of a paid-for school meals will increase from £2.30 to **£2.65**

Choosing school meals supports your child's learning and development, improving educational attainment, social skills and valuable life skills and the trust welcomes your continued support.

To find out more information on **free school meals**, the qualifying criteria and how to apply, please visit the councils website at www.barnsley.gov.uk/free-school-meals or call (01226) 787787 (select option 3).

Yours faithfully

St Mary's Academy Trust

