



Priory Junior School

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Dear Parents,

New Caterers and Lunchtime Arrangements

As we begin the Spring term, we are delighted to be welcoming abm as our new school caterer. We are looking forward to what promises to be an exciting new lunch menu, which we are sure will provide a good amount of delicious choices for the children.

We will also be trialling a new approach to our meal time arrangements over the coming weeks too. We have spent a long time researching approaches to meal times for schools, and have had informal conversations with the children too.

We want our dining hall to be a place where everyone can enjoy. A social space, with a relaxed and calm atmosphere, a place where we can all enjoy a meal together and catch up with friends. A place that reflects the enjoyment of eating out at a restaurant.

To achieve this, we have adjusted some of our current arrangements. The biggest change that will take place for this will be a move from a rolling sitting arrangement to a timed sitting arrangement. There will be three sittings during the lunch hour, with a rotating order to year groups / classes in these sittings. This means that you will be on first sitting once in every three weeks, as opposed to once in every 12 weeks currently.

Children will sit at an allocated table in friendship groups. All children have expressed a preference for who they are with, and we have ensured that all children have at least one of their choices.

When children arrive in the hall, they will sit at their table and once ready, will be invited up to get their school meal. Each table will have a table leader who will indicate when their table is ready to leave at the end of the meal. By introducing this approach, we aim to ensure that all children have a good amount of time to enjoy their meal. We aim for all children to take a turn at being the table leader. Children who need longer to eat will be able to remain in the dining hall through the next sitting.



If your child is having a school meal, they will now collect a tray to put their plates and cutlery on. They will choose both their main meal, salad options and their dessert before coming to sit down at the table. ***Once chosen, they will not return to the meal counter.***

Children in the 2nd or 3rd sitting will go straight outside to play, and be called in once their time arrives.

Within each sitting, a table will be rewarded with Top Table each week – they will have a specially decorated table for them the following week to enjoy.

How can I help my child with these changes?

- Talk to them about the changes, and the new features of the lunchtime provision.
- Celebrate any awards of Top Table they get.
- Be positive about the changes and ask us if you are unsure about anything.

We have launched the new arrangements today in school, and have shown the children how the arrangements will work during the lunchtime.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Keefe
Headteacher

