



2 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Meal Price Increase from September 2026

I am writing to inform you of a change to the cost of school meals, which will come into effect from the start of the new academic year in September 2026.

Over the past two years, we have worked hard to keep the price of school meals at £2.50, despite significant increases in the cost of food, staffing, and other essential services. Like many families, schools have experienced rising costs across a wide range of goods and services. Until now, we have absorbed these increases and have not passed them on to our families.

However, to ensure that we can continue to provide high-quality, nutritious meals for our pupils, it has become necessary to adjust our pricing. From September 2026, the cost of a school meal will increase to £2.80 per meal.

This has not been a decision we have taken lightly. We understand that any increase in costs can have an impact on family budgets, and we have delayed this change for as long as possible. Unfortunately, in order to cover our rising costs and maintain the standards we are proud of, this step is now unavoidable.

We remain committed to offering healthy, balanced meals that support children's wellbeing and learning throughout the school day. We hope that you will continue to support our school meal provision.

We understand that these price increases may be concerning for parents. However, following our recent communication about changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, more families may now qualify for support.

From 1 September 2026, **all** children in households receiving Universal Credit can get free school meals, no matter how much the household earns. Families with an income of £7,400 or less will continue to receive extra support, such as additional funding for schools and access to other programmes like holiday food schemes and travel support. Families earning above this amount will still receive free school meals for their child.

We encourage all families receiving Universal Credit to check if they are eligible and apply. You can do this through Slough Borough Council using the following link: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/education-help-financial-support/free-school-meals> or by



registering your details using this simple form. Please use the following link:
<https://shorturl.at/P4pRe>

If you have any questions or require further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely



Michael Dillon, Headteacher
Birch Hill Primary School

