



The Drive Community Primary School

Mrs R Farren, Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 0PY
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www.thedriveprimary.org

12th January 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

School Meal Price Increase - £3.00 per day, from Monday, 19th January 2026

I am writing to inform you that from Monday 19th January 2026, the school meal price will increase to £3.00 per day, or £15.00 per week. Our school meals are provided by Gateshead Council's School Catering Service and despite our best efforts the current price of £2.90 does not enable us to cover the total cost of the school meals at the School. This means that we must raise the cost.

As a parent, you can be reassured that Gateshead menus meet - and exceed - national standards for school lunches. That's because they understand how the right nutrients can positively affect a child's mood, behaviour, health, growth and ability to concentrate in lessons. They also know how a well-balanced diet now helps to establish healthy eating habits for the future.

They also demand the highest welfare standards. All eggs used are free range and meet RSPCA Freedom Food standards, all fish is Marine Stewardship Approved (MSC), cocoa, sugar and bananas are guaranteed Fairtrade, and all meat and poultry meet the Red Tractor assured quality standard. We do not accept foods which are known to contain GM (genetically modified) foods, MRM (mechanically recovered meat), modified proteins, and specified flavourings and colourings.

Also, if your child has a special dietary requirement - such as diabetic, coeliac, low fat and dairy intolerances or a food allergy – they will be happy to plan and provide a school meal that meets your child's needs. We can also adapt menus to meet religious needs.

School meals should be paid for in advance by the preferred portal Arbor effective 19th January 2026. Further details with regard to the Arbor app will be sent ASAP.

Paying weekly or for longer periods helps the school make best use of time and is much appreciated. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please contact 0191 433 3729 for more information.

School meals are an excellent choice for lunchtime, and I hope that you will support the catering service within our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Farren
Head Teacher



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

