

King Edwin Primary School



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Parent Forum Thursday 11th January 4pm

Dear parents/carers,

School meals are often a contentious topic for debate in many school playgrounds and quite rightly so as good nutrition is important for the health of our children.

In recent weeks I have been approached regarding a number of school meal related issues and I would like to respond to a few misconceptions that parents may have.

- all portion sizes are carefully controlled and the size of meals is quality assured (I can personally assure parents that the correct portions are being served)
- when on 'last sitting' (classes take turns) any food left is offered to children if they wish to have a little more
- Unpopular meals are considered by our school cook and alternatives discussed with our school council for future improvements
- Children are encouraged to eat their meals by midday supervisors and if children have not eaten lunch, this is passed onto teachers

I would also like to let parents know that a number of issues have been resolved following feedback from parents in recent weeks:

- All children will now receive the starter or pudding that they have ordered (on odd occasions it appears that not enough have been available)
- We are considering removing the various alternative options of jacket potato and baguettes due to children being confused over their choices (consultation in January)
- Any child that has difficulty from time to time (odd occasion) and is upset or uncomfortable with a food choice, will be offered a simple alternative such as a cheese or ham sandwich

We will be offering a parent forum meeting to discuss some of these issues on Thursday 11th January 4pm. This meeting will follow on from our School Comms Gateway App workshop. We would like to ask that all parents support their child at school mealtimes by following some very simple but effective guidelines:

- Please ensure that your children are consulted with regarding meal choices
- Each child should be told what they are having for lunch every day and most if not all children should be able to repeat this when asked ... only a few children in KS1/KS2 and Foundation children may have problems with this and need support
- Ensure that any packed lunches provided are nutritious, healthy and balanced
- Parents are expected to consider that if a child is perhaps 'a fussy eater' at home, they are likely to show this at school. We will offer support but we must work together on this.
- Parents are asked to consider why a child has not eaten their meal and to help establish reasons and thus a solution for the next meal choice.
- Parents should put any concerns regarding school meals to our school office team who will then put these concerns to the Nottinghamshire Schools Catering Team.
- Children will be encouraged to 'have their say' on issues relating to school meals via their school council representatives.

We look forward to discussing perhaps some of the issues above with parents at our parent forum meeting on Thursday 11th January 4pm.

Kind regards,

Andy Callaghan -Wetton