

My child is unwell and will be absent from school - I have booked and paid for a meal. What can I do?

Cancellations can be accepted up until 1pm the day before the meal is to be taken. Cancellations must be made by either ringing the School Office on 01908 542405 or emailing office@johnhellins.co.uk.

What will my child drink at lunchtime?

Fresh drinking water will be available on every table at lunchtime. We ask that no juice or other sugary drinks are consumed at lunchtime. Your child is free to bring their own water bottle to the lunch hall should they prefer this.

What if my child doesn't like their lunch?

Our lunch staff are very aware of what each and every child eats at lunchtime. We will encourage your child to try their food and to eat at least some of what has been provided. We will let you know if your child is regularly not eating their lunch or has a particular and repeated dislike of a particular menu item.

We will always do everything possible to provide the menu published, although occasionally circumstances beyond our control may result in a change to this. In this instance, we will contact parents by email.

If you have any questions regarding our lunch provision, please contact the School Office or Cathryn Akrill, our Pupil and Family Wellbeing Leader on cakrill@johnhellins.co.uk

The Kitchen

At John Hellins

School Lunch Information

Providing Home Cooked Lunches from Our On Site Kitchen

The provision of freshly cooked, homemade lunches to all of our children is at the heart of the ethos of The Kitchen at John Hellins. Our aim is to encourage healthy eating from an early age and to encourage children to widen their food experiences by trying new foods alongside their peers. In addition to this, our service removes from parents the responsibility and time commitment of providing a packed lunch every day - providing a hearty and nutritious meal that often cannot not be achieved with a packed lunch.

Our menu is designed in-house and is varied, balanced and appealing. Complying with the Government Food Standards, our menu is nutritionally balanced over the course of each week. Lunches are freshly cooked in our on-site kitchen and meals are prepared completely from scratch wherever possible.

Our menu offers three options every day: a main meal, a vegetarian meal and a light bite option, each with the pudding of the day. In addition to this, fresh bread, fresh fruit and our lovely salad bar are available every day to all children taking school lunches. Our menu rotates on a three-weekly cycle and new dishes are added every term.

Lunches are served in our homely lunch hall environment – where tables are laid with pretty tablecloths, jugs of water and pots of cutlery. Tables seat children from mixed year groups and our older children are encouraged to help our younger children. Music is played on occasions and we work hard to make this a relaxed, happy and sociable place for our children to enjoy their lunch.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does a meal cost?

The cost of a meal is £2.33. Currently, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals as part of the Government Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme (UIFSM) and so parents of these children will not be charged when booking meals. In addition to this, children eligible for Pupil Premium Funding are also entitled to free school meals and so parents of these children will not be charged when booking meals.

What happens if I miss the deadline?

If you miss the deadline, please contact the School Office by 10am the next day (Thursday) and we will see if we can help.

Unfortunately, food orders will be placed with ingredient suppliers at this point and so we will be unable to take any lunch orders after this time.

How do I book lunches?

Lunches can be booked via the Parentpay system (<https://www.parentpay.com/>). Meals can be booked weekly or for a half term. Full booking instructions are available on our website. Meals must be booked by midnight on Wednesday for the following week.

My child has a food allergy. What do I do?

Please refer to our information leaflet titled [Information for all Parents and Carers of Children with Food Allergies](#)