

Parents and Carers  
Primary and special schools

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**Your Reference:**

Dear Parent/Carer

### **School meals to increase in Plymouth for the first time in six years**

As you will know, CATER<sup>ed</sup>, the school lunch provider at your child's school is a cooperative trading company owned by the schools and the council. CATER<sup>ed</sup> was set up in 2015 to ensure that all schools (as shareholders) could provide great tasting school dinners and also to ensure that budgets for school food were spent on school food without impacting on others areas of school funding. Over 80% of our meals are cooked from scratch each and every day in your schools' own production kitchen using locally sourced, seasonal and fresh ingredients.

You may well have recently seen a press article about a price increase that the CATER<sup>ed</sup> Board have had to introduce from the start of the summer term.

The new price for a hot, two-course school meal will be £2.10 for primary schools and special schools. This means just a 10 pence increase (five per cent) or an additional 50 pence per week for those families who pay for the school lunches with effect from Tuesday 18 April.

The increase is a result of rising food and ingredient prices that we will have all experienced in our household shopping baskets and, whilst we understand that any increase in costs hits the disposable income of families, this is something that the Board have been working hard to avoid up to this point. School meal prices in Plymouth will remain amongst the lowest in the South-west and this is the first increase in the price of a school lunch for six years.

We hope that those families who pay for their child's school lunch will understand and continue to support the service that we know offers fantastic choice, great value for money and helps children be ready to learn.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free universal infant free school meal and other pupils may be entitled to a free school meal based on household income. If you think you may be entitled to a free school meal talk directly to your school or visit

<http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/catered/cateredfreeschoolmeals.htm>.

Registering for free school meals can also help your child's school with additional funding through the Pupil Premium which will be used to support education and learning.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Brad Pearce**  
Managing Director on behalf of the CATER<sup>ed</sup> Board

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