

Thames View Infants



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes to Packed Lunch Arrangements

As you know, whilst school is closed, we are offering daily packed lunches that you can request through Parent Mail each day. We have been working with our meal provider, Juniper, to organise a weekly packed lunch pick up. We are conscious that although able to leave the house under the current Government Guidance for Social Distancing and remaining indoors, we want to minimise this as much as possible for you.

The Department for Education has asked all schools and their lunch providers to ensure that families who are in receipt of "Free School Meals" related to benefits and tax credits continue to receive the food they are entitled to. At this point, a weekly packed lunch grocery box seems a more manageable form of doing this. If you think you may be eligible for a benefits related free school meal, or you want to check the criteria then please follow this link to the Barking and Dagenham website and the online application form:

<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/financial-support-for-pupils-and-students>

If you are eligible for a benefits-related free school meal, it is important that you register.

We have ordered 100 boxes this week. This is based on the current numbers of families using the daily pick up option plus a few extra. We will be prioritising families that receive the benefits related free school meal and then families that have already taken up the current offer.

On Friday you will be able to pick up the first of our weekly lunch boxes. The contents are more than the minimum expectation of 5 meals and much better value. An idea of the contents is listed below; however, depending on availability this might change and contents may substitute with something else:

- A loaf of bread
- 2 jacket potatoes (raw, ready to cook)



We're a PAPERLESS School – so you must download & register your ParentMail App to receive e-newsletters, to book after-school clubs & Parents' meetings or to confirm consent for educational visits.

- Two tins of baked beans
- A tin of tuna
- A tin of sweetcorn
- 5 drinks
- At least 5 pieces of fruit
- 5 snacks
- A pack of cherry tomatoes

Please indicate via the Parent Mail form whether you would like a weekly lunch box. If you are self-isolating please ensure you let us know as we still may be able to deliver. There is no choice option for the contents of the weekly lunch box, the offer is a standard one-for-all. Remember, **it is one box per child at Thames View Infants only**. Sadly, **we are no longer able to offer the service for children that are no longer on our registers**.

We are really pleased with the grocery boxes and hope you are too. Please do make sure you order one. Even if we run out this week, we need to know how many to order the following week so that everyone who wants one gets one, so please don't be put off from ordering. Please, please be patient with us during this period. We are working really hard to make sure we support everyone as best we can in these difficult times.

Thank you as always for your support and patience while we get systems in place for what is an unprecedented time in our shared history. I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. Please do keep an eye on each other, your friends and family where you can. Being isolated at home can be difficult for many of us, but it is especially the case if home is not always the happiest or safest place for you. It is sad to say that this will be the case for some of our families, friends and neighbours. People will be hopeful that others will reach out to them when they are unable or prevented from asking for help. If you think this is the case, there are people to that can help, please call us if you can. However, in an emergency you should continue to call 999, the police and other emergency services continue to attend when required whether you are self-isolating or not.

Take care and I look forward to seeing you when I deliver you lunch, look out for my little white car, or when you pick up, give me an appropriately social distanced wave and a smile from the window.

Best wishes



Claire Smith
Deputy Headteacher
Inclusion Leader, Thames View Infants