

1st October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Update from the Ventrus Catering Lead

We just wanted to update you on the current school food provision during Covid-19.

We decided as a Trust to continue with the hot food provision where other schools have chosen a cold food option, as we understood this to be an important part of your child's day.

We pride ourselves on the quality of food served at our in-house kitchens and the dedication our staff have shown to ensure your child receives a hot, healthy meal.

Although our current menus may not look as exciting or varied as we would like them to, they are planned using the freshest local ingredients, home cooked and contain as much hidden vegetables as possible.

We have taken steps to reduce plastic by purchasing biodegradable containers and cutlery which can be disposed of alongside our food waste.

As you may be aware, we are currently following Covid-19 guidelines for food service in schools and this has restricted the menu choices and service options for the following reasons:

- Food has to be served in classrooms or individual pods
- Food needs to be served in disposable containers that can be disposed of when finished
- We are working with staggered times for members of staff in the kitchens to follow guidelines
- Food choices have to fit in disposable containers and be chosen to reduce the water absorption when placed in the boxes
- Stock shortages or changes from suppliers
- No food can be placed out for self-service and all food needs to be wrapped or served in a sealed container

Due to the above, we are restricted to what we can offer, although all the products that we use are of the highest quality and in no way replaced with substandard alternatives.

The menus chosen were not derived for ease or cost but to protect the quality of the food that has to be transported to the classroom.

Please be assured that we will return to the normal menu as soon as guidelines allow and we will be monitoring and changing the menus accordingly. We are hoping it won't be too long before your child can have full access to the wider healthy nutritional menu we would normally provide along with the wonderful 'help yourself' salad bar.

May we take the opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times.

Kind regards

Rob Stevens
Catering Lead