

Jotmans Hall Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

June 2014

Free School Meals for Early Years

As I am sure you are aware from September 2014 all KS1 children will be entitled to free school meals. We are very keen that as many children as possible take up this new government initiative.

To allow for us to cater for the extra meals we are expanding our current kitchen over the summer break, making it bigger and better so we can produce more meals and more choice.

I understand that some parents may be worried that their child may not be keen on certain meals and that they might prefer a packed lunch from home, but we really would like to work with parents to ensure that there are plenty of meals on the menu that all children will like. This will ensure that the children can take up this great initiative - saving parents money and maybe even help children try a few new foods..

In September there will be a choice of two different meals every day; one will be suitable for vegetarians (this can be chosen by anyone not just vegetarians!) and we will also have a selection of rolls for those children who are not keen on either choice.

Every day the children can help themselves to bread, salad and fruit. We have three choices of fruit each day and the children can have as much as they like. There is also a different dessert each day, for example, yogurt, jelly or cakes such as brownies or banana cake.

I enclose a copy of an example menu; this will not necessarily be exactly the same in September, but gives you an indication of the kind of meals we will be providing.

I regularly speak to the children about the meals they like and dislike and alter the menu each term from their feedback and to include seasonal foods.

We have an ordering system where the meal selections are made for the following week by Thursday morning to allow us to order the necessary ingredients and for us to have an idea of numbers for each day.

We would encourage all children to try school meals, perhaps for slightly fussier children just letting them choose which meals they know they like to start with and see if they can then get braver to try new things! If they ever take a meal which they don't like we encourage them to come and talk to us and we make sure we find something they do like. The dinner ladies also check to see how much they have eaten each day before they go out to play so we monitor what the children are eating and encourage them to eat a little more where we can!



If you have any questions or if your child has any allergies or special requirements please feel free to contact me via the school office or by e-mail on kitchen@jotmanshall.essex.sch.uk

I hope to see lots of the new children visiting me in September, going away with full tummies and smiling faces!

Many thanks,

Mrs J Jones

Cook