



SCHOOL LUNCH SURVEY



Thank you to all the parents/carers that took the time to complete our School Lunch Survey. Hopefully the following information will answer any questions or queries that were raised.

"Why don't you offer a sandwich option?"



Our kitchen is unfortunately too small to have an additional area to prepare sandwiches as well as hot meals in accordance with food hygiene regulations.

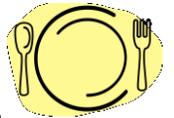


"It would be nice for the child to choose on the day."

In an ideal world that would be lovely but food has to be ordered several days in advance and we don't have the capacity to overstock our fridges and freezers. We also try to keep our food waste to a minimum not only for the environment but for financial reasons too.

"He thinks the portions are too small"

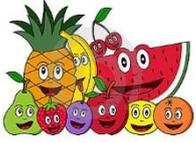
Essex County Council publish menu portion sizes as all school meals served have to comply with the Department for Education standards in both portion size and content.



"It would be good to have a salad option."

Salad and/or vegetables are available with every meal for the children to choose.





“The desserts all sound like they’re very high in sugar.”

There is a choice of desserts daily. These include fruit and yoghurt. Cookies and cakes contain hidden fruits to sweeten them and are again compliant with Essex County Council regulations. Honey is used instead of sugar in many recipes too.



“It would be good if there was a plain pasta option.”

We take our guidance from Essex County Council who provide menus which comply with the Department for Education standards and regulations. It is tricky to ensure each weekly menu complies to these stringent standards. Our choice is limited which may then limit your choice for your child.

How much do they have to eat of their lunch?

As children and parents choose their preferred meal there is an expectation that each child likes their main meal. All children are encouraged to eat most of their lunch. Where a child is struggling we would ask them to eat a smaller amount.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

~ We don't fry any of our food

~ All our meat is delivered daily from Oliver's Butchers, Shenfield



~ Our fruit and vegetables are delivered daily from Barleylands, Billericay



~ Most of the sauces made contain hidden vegetables which are blended so that the children are unaware that they are in them



~ All our meals are cooked with fresh ingredients on the premises



~ Water and Milk are always readily available for the children to drink



~ Your child's class teacher will always inform you if your child isn't eating any of their meal (If you hear nothing then take it they are eating well)

~ The top 5 lunch choices from our survey were...

1st Roast Dinner



2nd Fish and Chips



3rd Spaghetti Bolognese



4th Pizza

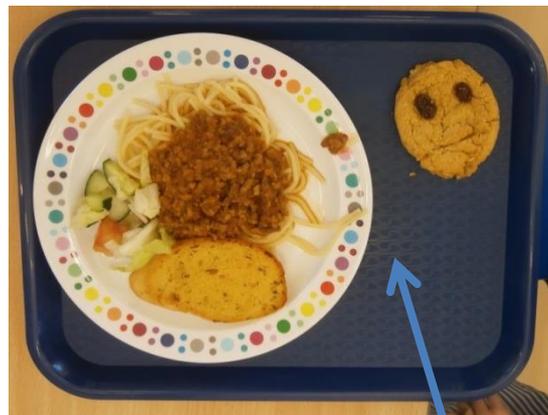
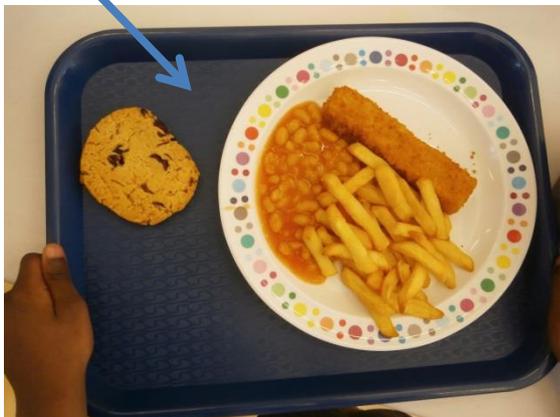


5th Sausage Roll



Photos of some of our school lunches

Fish Fingers, Chips and Baked Beans with an oatmeal and raisin cookie for dessert



Spaghetti Bolognese, Garlic Bread and Salad with a Fruity Cookie for dessert

Roast Gammon, Yorkshire Pudding, Potato and Vegetables with a Strawberry smoothie for dessert



Gnocchi in a Creamy Cheese Sauce with garlic bread and cucumber salad with a Fruity Cookie for dessert

Cheese and Tomato Pizza with pasta salad and cucumber with Chocolate Sponge for dessert



Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans and salad with Watermelon for dessert

More Parent comments...

The menu is quite varied and has a good selection in my opinion.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work. On the whole my kids love school dinners.

Very pleased with it!!

Appreciate any dairy free options provided.

I am satisfied with the menus and served portions.

He seems to enjoy all of his food.

From the information I get school dinners go down really well, she loves them.

We are happy.

Thank you for cooking great dinners.

We feel very lucky to have such nice free food every day.

They are healthy and balanced.

The range on offer is great and all very healthy.

I think it's a great thing for us all to benefit from and we are lucky that the kids have such a lovely varied menu.

I love the way my son will eat meals at school he insists he doesn't like at home! School dinners are definitely a good way to broaden the food types my son will eat.

Message from our Catering Manager and Assistant Cook - *"We try to stay within the Department for Education standards and regulations but we also want all the children to love and enjoy the food that they are eating. We always try our best to make meals that appeal to the children as well as encouraging them to try new foods. We want them to enjoy a range of flavours, tastes and textures."*

After October Half Term, from Monday 5th November, parents can, if they wish, sign up and enjoy a school dinner in the hall. This will give you an opportunity to sample the delicious food that is available on that day. There will be 6 spaces available each day. In order to cover costs we will ask for a payment of £1.50. **Please note that there is no guarantee that your child will be in the hall whilst you are there.**

You will need to arrive between 12:10 and 12:20 having booked a space via the school office **prior** to this. We are unable to offer more than 6 spaces each day due to the capacity for cooking meals and seating availability.

We look forward to welcoming you for your lunch.