

Viking Academy Trust

Mrs Michaela Lewis BEd (Hons)
Executive Headteacher
Email: eht@vikingacademytrust.com
Tel: 01843 597695
Web: vikingacademytrust.com



Chilton Primary School
Chilton Lane
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 0LQ

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Independent Catering: New Catering Providers

We have some exciting news!

Following on from our children's, parents and carers feedback, we have heavily invested our time into sourcing a solution for your children school meals. As a Trust, it's extremely important that we listen to our families and make improvements where possible so we are delighted to announce that **Independent Catering** are coming on board this September as our new catering provider. Please visit their website (<https://www.independentcatering.co.uk/>) to read the testimonials from other schools and parents, view the gallery of wonderful pictures and gain confidence around their allergen and intolerance provisions.

Independent Catering are a small company focussed on providing your child with freshly prepared, healthy meals that will help your children reach their five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, they're also committed to using honest, local produce. This means that meat served can be traced back to the farm and meets or exceeds UK animal welfare standards. Many of the vegetables used have been sourced locally which reduces the environmental impact of your children's lunches.

What's more, all ingredients used in meals are free from additives, artificial trans fats and GMOs, and most of the food is freshly prepared by trained chefs. Avoiding processed foods mean that their chefs knows exactly what's going into the food they are preparing, and it will also ensure that children can connect the food they are eating to where it came from. They recognise that menus are inclusive of cultural needs and dietary requirements, so every child is catered for on their lunch menus.

We have also been able to migrate their payment platform onto our existing and familiar school money app ([School Money for Parents](#).) that you are already using for school clubs, trips and other school-based activities, this means your current log will enable you to pay for your school meals where applicable, saving yet another payment platform for you to navigate.

Alongside this, we have a brand new 'help yourself' salad bar being installed in the dining hall which is certain to encourage the children to be independent and select those healthy choices to accompany their meals.

With this letter you'll find their new menu, please can we encourage you to talk to your children about the new provision and help us promote the menu for them to try. If your children wouldn't normally have a school meal, maybe there will be something on the new menu that they'd like to try with their friends one day?

As part of the new provision, the raising of standards and improved quality, we have had to make a small increase in the price per meal. We have compared our current meal costs with other local schools and the average national meal cost and conclude 10 pence increase per meal bringing us to £2.25 per meal with effect from September 2021.

If you have any questions about Independent Catering or the payment platform, please let us know.

If you are interested in claiming for free school meals, the office will be able to advise you on the criteria for an application, or even assist you in checking eligibility.

We are really looking forward to welcoming Independent Catering on board!

Best wishes

Mrs M Lewis
Executive Headteacher

'One Childhood, One Chance'



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