



Through God, We
Love, Laugh and
Learn.

ST. MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

Weavers Lane
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 8QB

T: 01785 334930

email: office@st-michaels-stone.staffs.sch.uk

Twitter: @StMichaelsStone

Headteacher: Mrs J Wass BA (Hons) NPQH

25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: School Meals

I am writing to inform you that following recent communication from Stoke on Trent Facilities Management, Children and Family Services who provide our school meal service through City Catering there will unfortunately be a rise in the price of a school meal to £2.57 with effect from 1st December 2022.

This price rise has come into effect under the category of Force Majeure due to situations outside of the control of City Catering influencing their need to raise their prices. This is not an increase that the school has agreed to however due to increased costs being forced on to our catering providers we have to implement this increase. We do understand that during these difficult times any price increases will put a strain on household budgets, however, we will continue to offer two hot main dishes, a choice of sandwich, jacket potato and a pudding and drink as part of the school meal package.

Their correspondence outlines the reasons that this price rise has had to be implemented and I would like to share with you the rationale provided by City Catering:

“The last two years have brought many unpredicted and well-publicised disruptions which continue to have a profound impact on British society. At City Catering, we have addressed all the challenges encountered, and in conjunction with your kitchen teams have flexibly adapted and developed our operations, menu content, processes and procedures. However, there are also many factors beyond our control which affect food production and manufacturing, have resulted in substantial price rises on base ingredients across all categories. In real terms, this means that all flour has virtually doubled in price; fish has become scarcer and is continuing to increase at between 30 and 60%; dairy produce is continuing to escalate due to stock shortages of cheese and lower milk yields; and poultry has been affected by Avian Flu, pushing up its price; potatoes are dramatically up in price due to farmers' costs; all pulses are up by 25-50%; and fruit juice up by 35-60%.

This volatility within commodity prices has many causes including, but not limited to, an explosion in energy expenditure (business energy costs not being capped), transport costs, shipping, and of course, the rising costs of labour. The invasion of Ukraine has also generated considerable consequential impact on food supplies, which has added to the inflation we are currently experiencing.”



If the situation does improve, City Catering have assured us that they would pass any savings back to the school and of course we would do the same with our families.

Kind regards

Mrs J Wass

Headteacher

