



## St. Anne's C.E. (VC) Primary School

**"Together with God, Making Learning a Life Long Friend"**

*We aspire to be guided in all that we do by our inclusive Christian ethos. We are enthusiastic about life-long learning and share wisdom in serving each other and our world. We encourage all to live lives of hope and aspiration, inspired through acquiring new skills and attributes. Dignity and respect are at the heart of our school.*

21<sup>st</sup> March, 2025

### FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Re : SCHOOL MEAL AND TOAST PROVISION**

Our school meals and toast provision is supplied by a company called Edwards and Ward. This is a company that is sub-contacted from Staffordshire County Council. We pay them a management fee to provide our meals and toast service.

Over the past few years, we have seen prices increase from the company (in my opinion dramatically!) This is, in part, understandable as prices, inflation, cost of energy and wages have all increased. As I am sure that you are aware, a trolley of shopping costs a lot more than it used to. However, as a school I am concerned that the prices offered to parents are becoming unaffordable.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, Edwards and Ward have planned to increase prices from 35p to 38p for a slice of toast. As a school, we feel this increase is unjustifiable and have decided to take our own responsibility for selling toast at cost. Therefore, from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March, St. Anne's own staff will be providing toast and we will be sourcing the ingredients privately. We already do this for our Kids' Club provision. Therefore, toast from Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 **will reduce by 5p to 30p a slice.** We will continue to monitor this and hopefully aim to reduce prices further in the future.

However, the provision of school meals is a lot more complicated and we as a school are tied into a contract until December 2025. Edwards and Ward have made the decision to further **increase the cost of a school lunch from £2.95 to £3.20** from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. As a school, there is nothing we can do to prevent this. With the support of other local schools, we have presented our concerns to Edwards and Ward, but the price rise will still take place. With the

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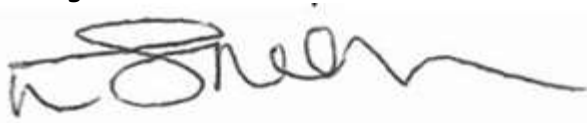
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support of Governors, we will be over the next year looking for alternative options in providing school meals to try and ensure that not only are nutritious lunches provided, but are also done at affordable pricing.

Whilst you may be dismayed at this information, please be re-assured that we, as a school, will look at all options available to us to ensure that St. Anne's food provision can be as competitive as possible. Please also remember that should you be in receipt of financial support (benefits) from the Government, you may qualify for Free School Meals, which also brings other activities at discounted rates.

Kind Regards



Edward Hobson  
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