



23rd January 2023

RE: Beech Catering

Dear Families,

Our catering company, Beech Catering, contacted us last week to discuss the growing number of unpaid bills. The caterers cook to order, and this is impacting on their ability to provide school meals. Sadly, there are already £400 worth of unpaid meals this term alone. When these bills are unpaid, the balance is charged to the school, taking money away from teaching and learning.

Considering this, Beech Catering have informed us that from 25th January they will no longer be accepting bookings through the current system. All bookings will need to be made via Parent Mail and paid for in advance. Sadly, we will not be able to update or order meals from the school office anymore.

ParentMail

All meals will need to be booked this includes:

- Universal infant free school meals (Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
- Families in receipt of Pupil Premium – free school meals
- You will be able to view all booked meals
- ParentMail will calculate the cost of the meals booked
- Bookings must be made one week in advance
- Beech Catering are raising their prices to £2.65
- Menus will be found under the 'Accounts' section on ParentMail.

I recognise that there have been many changes to the booking system this year, and I apologise that this change is happening now. I hope that this system will be far simpler for everybody to use and will avoid the current unsustainable situation.

Headteacher: Laura Constanza
Deputy Headteacher: Hannah Lintern

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We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all staff share this commitment. If you have a concern about the welfare or safety of child please speak directly to Mrs Constanza (DSL) or Miss Lintern (DDSL).

www.catcottprimary.co.uk

I also recognise that many families are struggling financially. There are a number of sources of help available for those families struggling to pay. A couple of helpful websites are shown below and there are more available through searching on the internet.

- <https://www.stepchange.org/debt-info/emergency-funding.aspx>
- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

Many thanks

Laura Constanza
Headteacher