

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL MEALS

West Sussex



## New beginnings

Whether starting school for the first time or entering a new year group, the new school year brings a fresh start with lots of exciting, and sometimes daunting, new experiences for children. Lunchtimes are a really fun part of the school day with lots of different, delicious and healthy foods for children to enjoy. This leaflet is about making sure you're absolutely up to date with everything you need to know about school meals.



We are the leading provider of catering services to schools in the UK and serve over 2,000 schools across the country.

All our meals are healthy, tasty and nutritious, supporting childrens' development in school. Each one is freshly prepared by a dedicated and passionate team of chefs and kitchen staff. Our philosophy is Eat, Learn, Live which ensures we educate young people about how to lead a happy, safe and healthy lifestyle while contributing to a sustainable world.



#### Brilliant Value

We believe that enjoying a nutritious hot meal at lunch time is always better than a packed lunch...and it's even better when it's free!



#### How do school meals compare to packed lunches?

On average the saving of switching to school meals from packed lunches is £400 throughout the school year — and this doesn't account for the amount of time you would save too! Not only this, but school meals are nutritionally balanced and studies have shown that children who eat a school meal are more effective in the classroom during the afternoon.



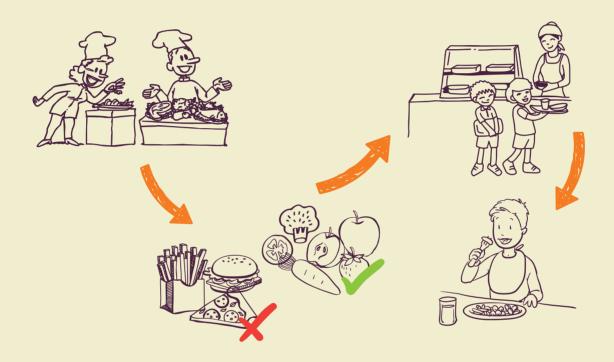
Did you know that if your child is starting Reception, or heading in to Year I or 2 that they are entitled to a free meal, every day?

#### All things nutrition

We know that the health and wellbeing of your child is paramount when they are at school, especially when it comes to lunchtime. At Chartwells we have a dedicated team of Nutritionists across the country who make sure that the food we serve at school is the most nutritious as possible.

School meals by law must meet the School Food Standards. These ensure that when menus are developed they are considerate of children's nutritional needs. Implementing these standards

ensures that healthier food items, like fruit and vegetables, wholegrains and oily fish, are promoted, and less healthy items, like deep fried foods, manufactured meat products and added sugar drinks are restricted or prohibited on menus. Every day, you can be assured that a school meal will offer; 2 portions of fruit and vegetables, a dairy food item rich in calcium for strong bones and teeth, starchy carbohydrates to provide energy, and a protein source to support the body's growth and repair.



### Variety is the spice of life

All of our main meals and desserts have been sampled by groups of children and are in-line with the School Food Standards portion size recommendations. Our menus are planned specifically for each area, based on local preference and always include children's favourites such as cheese & tomato pizza, pasta bolognese, weekly roast dinners and fruit sponge and custard.

'I can't believe the impact that eating with school friends at lunchtime has had on my son. He talks of food that he's eaten that I have never been able to get him to eat at home, and as a result, we now all enjoy mealtimes as a family.' Will Taylor (Parent), Year One Pupil

Please refer to a copy of your schools menu for the daily options available.

## Frequently Asked Questions

We know that starting a new school can be a daunting experience for little ones. We have compiled some frequently asked questions below to reassure you that your child's dining experiences at school will be positive ones!

#### My child is new to the school and is in reception or KSI, how do I pay for school meals?

In 2014, the Government introduced free school meals for all children in the UK in reception and years 1 and 2. This means that any child in these year groups are entitled to a delicious hot meal free of charge. Please contact your child's school or school catering manager for more details.

#### I want my child to start having school meals, where can I find the menu?

Our menus are displayed on the board in the schools reception and on the schools website, and we will also send menu flyers home in children's book bags. Additionally, look out for menus at www.mealselector.co.uk

#### What is included in a school meal?

Each school meal consists of a protein item (either meat, fish or vegetarian options), vegetables (e.g. broccoli/sweetcorn/carrots), a starchy carbohydrate (e.g. pasta/rice/potato), and a pudding.

#### Will my child be able to switch between having a homemade packed lunch and a school meal?

Yes. As school meals are not mandatory, you are able to switch between packed lunches and school meals. Remember though that school meals are free to those children in reception and years 1 & 2, and provide a nutritionally balanced, delicious meal. Please note some schools have local policies regarding meal ordering so please check this with your school before placing orders.

#### I want my child to be able to have school meals but they have an allergy/require a special diet. Do you cater for special diets?

Yes. Our dedicated team of nutritionists work with our teams to create menus for those children that suffer with

allergies or require a special diet. A special diet is a requirement different to the choices offered within the menu cycle, which are medically required or due to religious beliefs. For medically required diets all requests are to be supported by a GP/Dietitian letter confirming the allergy, this enables our nutrition team to develop a suitable menu for your child.

Contact: westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk

# My child is nervous about eating in the dining hall. I want to be able to reassure them by talking them through the dining hall experience. How does the dining hall work and who will my child be sitting with?

The dining hall may be a daunting place for a new starter but there is nothing to be worried about! Children eat with their class mates and are led in to the dining hall by year group by a supervisor who will also make sure they get their meals and take it to their tables. Supervisory staff are also on hand to ensure the lunchtime is a safe and enjoyable experience.

## My child is very particular about what they eat. Will my child be able to get a school meal they like? And what would happen if they do not like the meal they choose?

Menus are available to parents to talk about daily food choices. Although all our schools are different we offer additional choices in most schools such as a jacket potato option, fresh fruit and yoghurt as a pudding alternative. Staff soon understand the likes and dislikes of pupils and help them make choices on a daily basis.

Our research shows that children will often try new foods when their friends are eating the same items, this often leads to pupils enjoying more foods leading to a wider and more varied diet.



Stay up to date with all the important news on your school meals service by visiting **www.loveschoolmeals.co.uk** 







Get in touch

**Chartwells** West Sussex, Unit 2, Lincoln House, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20





### School Meal Frequently Asked Questions



My child is new to the school and is in reception or KS1, how do I pay for school meals?

In 2014, the government introduced free school meals for all children in the UK in reception and years 1 and 2. This means that children in these years are entitled to a delicious hot meal free of charge. Please contact your child's school for more details.

I want my child to start having school meals, where can I find the menu?

Our menu can be found on the school website alternatively on the meal selector website at <a href="https://www.mealselector.co.uk">www.mealselector.co.uk</a>.

What is included in a school meal?

Each school meal consists of a protein item (either meat, fish or vegetarian option), vegetables or salad, starchy carbohydrate (e.g. pasta/rice/potato), bread, milk or water and a pudding.

Will my child be able to switch between a packed lunch and a school meal?

KS2 pupils are able to switch between packed lunches and school meals. Don't forget school meals are free to those children in KS1. Please be aware that whilst most schools let you switch between packed lunch and school meals some schools have individual policies regarding KS1 meal ordering so please check with your school before placing orders.

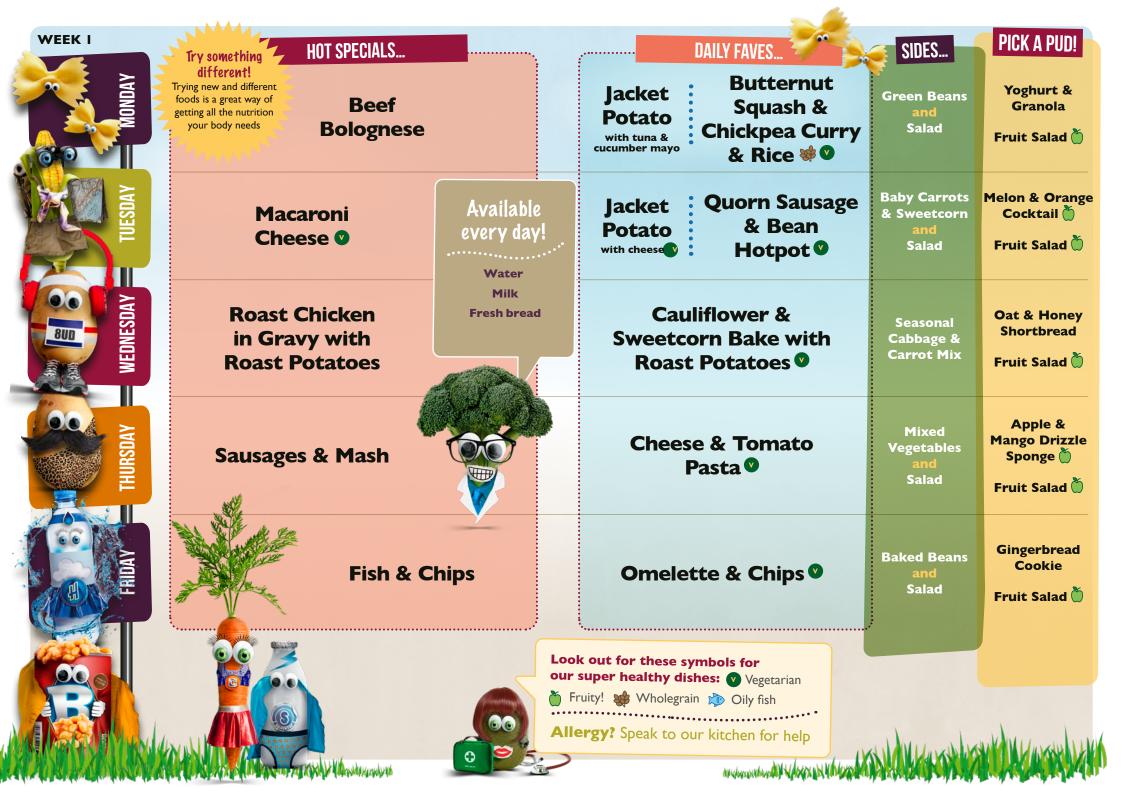
I want my child to be able to have school meals but they have an allergy/intolerance/require a special diet. Do you cater for special diets?

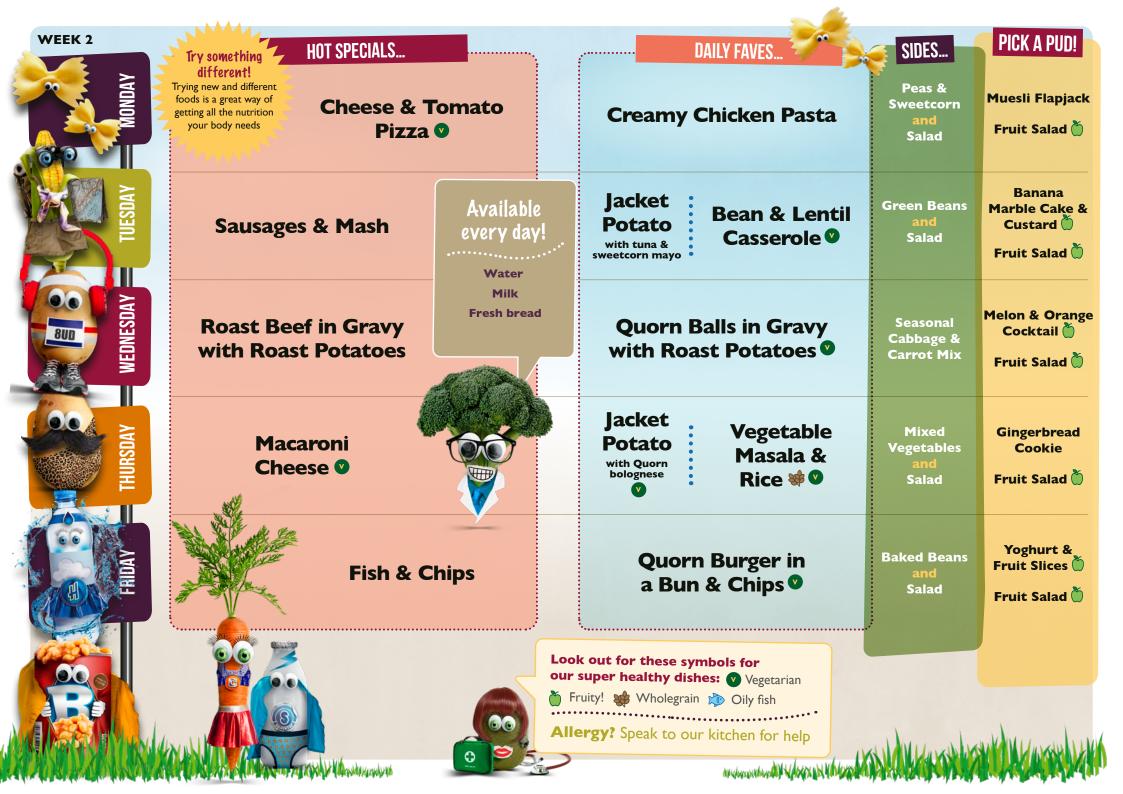
Yes. Our dedicated team work to create menus for those children that suffer with allergies/intolerances or require a special diet. A special diet is a requirement different to the choices offered within the menu which are medically required or due to religious beliefs. For medically required diets, all requests are to be supported by a GP/Dietician letter confirming the allergy, this enables our team to develop a suitable menu for your child. Please contact our special diet team at <a href="westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk">westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk</a>.

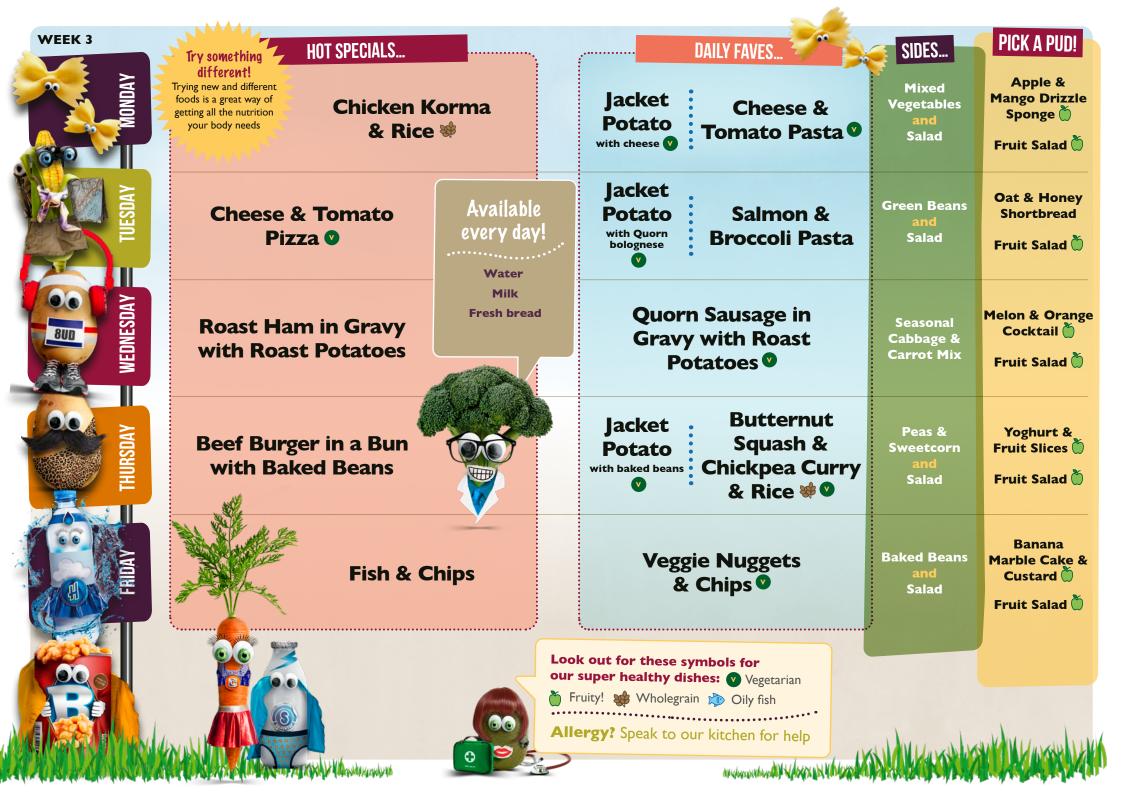
My child is a fussy eater. Will they be able to get a school meal they like?

Menus are available on your school website for parents to talk through with their children about daily food choices. Our menu is on a 3 week cycle and each day there are 2-3 options available to them.

Our research shows that children will often try new foods when their friends are eating the same items, this often leads to pupils enjoying more foods leading to a wider and more varied diet.







### Is your child moving up from Year 2 to Year 3?

Then don't let them miss out on nutritious school meals!

Chartwells school meals are compliant to the Government's School Food Standards, ensuring a balanced diet to provide all the nutrients a child requires to support optimal growth and development (Head of Nutrition, Chartwells)

As pupils move into year 3 school lunches are no longer free under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, however the social and nutritional benefits of eating a school meal with peers may be something you wish to continue for your child. Some would say it's money well spent!



For the average price of a high street coffee or magazine, your child could enjoy a delicious Chartwells school meal



School lunches can lead to better educational attainment (Source: Public Health England)

Children having school lunch are more likely to consume fruit and vegetables and drink water through the day. (Source: School Food Plan)



Find your free school meal voucher in this pack



#### The average packed lunch contains...



3x

the saturated fat:

the salt;





the sugar;

the calories

When compared to a Chartwells school meal

#### How to pay and further information

School meals from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 will cost £2.35 per day in your school. Pupils can choose to eat every day or pick their favourite days to eat with us.

You can pay for your school meals online at <a href="https://www.mealselector.co.uk">www.mealselector.co.uk</a>, if you don't have an account yet, go online to register or call the West Sussex Chartwells office on 01243 784223

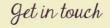
If your child has a special diet requirement, before purchasing meals please contact the special diet team at <a href="mailto:westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk">westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk</a>



Stay up to date with all the important news on your school meals service by visiting **www.loveschoolmeals.co.uk** 







Unit 2, Lincoln House, City Fields Way Tangmere, Chichester PO20 2FS 73041@compass-group.co.uk



# Internet School Meal Ordering System User Guide

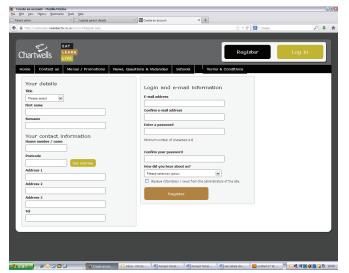
Connect to the Mealselector web site by typing www.mealselector.co.uk in the Microsoft Internet Explorer address area.

If you are using the web site for the first time you will need to register - the process is very simple.

You will need to answer a few question about yourself and then about your child or children.

Click the 'Register' button.

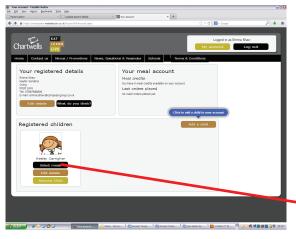
If you have more than one child and they are at different schools, you will **NOT** need to register twice, just add the additional child to your profile.

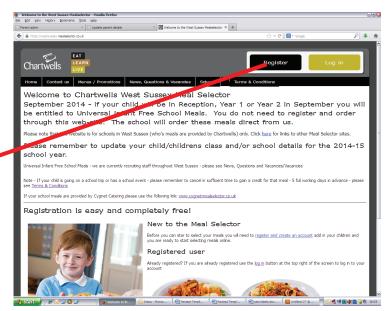


After registering your details you will now register your child or children's details, do this by clicking the 'add a child' button

Please insure you enter all details (class and date of birth).

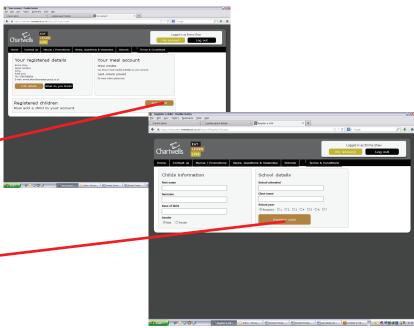
The click 'Register Child'.





Enter all of your details on the form.

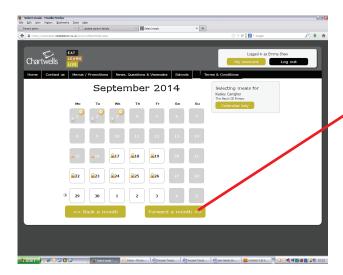
Choose a password that is easy to remember and then click the button to process your registration. This will then show you a summary of what you have entered, if any details are wrong you can edit them.



You will now see an overview of the details you have entered (You may change any of your details).

To add another child you will need to click on the 'add a child' button. (You will then need to enter deatils for your second child).

To select meals for your child you will need to click on the black 'select meals' button, this is located under your child's name.



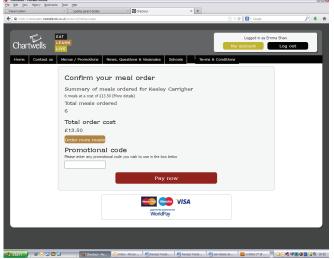
The screen will open to the calendar on the current month. The month can be changed to previous or forthcoming months by selecting either of the buttons at the bottom of the calendar.

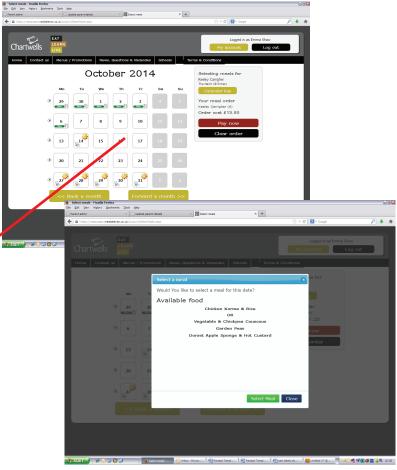
To order meals simply click on the date that the meal is required.

A new screen will appear showing you the menu for that paticular day. You will need to confirm you wish to order this day by clicking the 'select meal' button.

When you have selected the meals that you waqnt to order the screen will look like this - (Note that you do not have to order for a complete week and can select any days you wish - there is no minimum order).

Once the meals are selected you will need to click on the 'Pay Now' button which is on the right hand side of your screen.





The order summary shows the total number of meals ordered and the amount you will need to make payment for. If you have any credit meals from cancellations you have made through the web site the amount will be deducted from your total payment.

You must proceed to the payment section for the selected meals to be reserved for your child or children.

The payment section is a sercure site managed by WorldPay, and therefore we show images.

If you are having problems with any aspect of using the web site either: E-Mail - support@mealselector.co.uk

or Telephone: 01 159 245 400 extention 222 - office hours only

If you have any queries regarding your order, please contact the Chartwells West Sussex Office:

E-Mail - 73041@compass-group.co.uk or Telephone: 0845 603 7998



Office Hours
Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

### **Chartwells Free Meal Voucher**



(please quote the voucher code when ordering your meals)

Expiry Date: 25th September 2020

To book your free Chartwells meal please contact the Chartwells office on 01243 836130.

Please note if you do not have an account with us we will help set one up for you.

One free meal per voucher per child, no cash alternatives offered. Your free meal must be booked by the 25th September but can be for any day after that date.





