

Sparsholt C of E Primary School

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Thursday 16th July

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know about an important update to our school meal provision from September 2026.

From 2nd September 2026, our school meals will be provided by Edwards & Ward, with meals prepared at Western Primary School and delivered fresh to our school each day. This change comes following notice from Weeke Primary School that they will no longer be able to act as our mother kitchen from September. As we do not have a kitchen of our own, staff and governors have moved quickly to find a new provider that could offer the quality, service and value that our children and families deserve.

As part of this process, we visited schools and spoke with headteachers and school leaders who already work with Edwards & Ward. The feedback we received was extremely positive, with particular praise for the company's communication, varied and appealing menus, and commitment to high-quality ingredients. Hearing first-hand about other schools' experiences gave us great confidence, and I am pleased to be able to share what I believe is a very positive outcome for our school community.

As you might expect, there will be a small increase in the cost of school meals due to both the pricing structure of the new provider and the additional transportation costs associated with delivering meals to our school. From September 2026, the cost of a school meal will increase from **£2.85 to £3.05 per meal**.

I appreciate that any increase in cost is never welcome, and I would like to reassure you that careful consideration was given to securing the very best provision possible while keeping costs as low as we could.

Important Information for Families Requiring Allergy Menus

For those families who currently have a bespoke menu to cater for allergies, I would urge you as a matter of priority to contact our new providers to notify them of any allergies your child has and forward medical evidence to them ASAP to ensure they have sufficient time in which to prepare a bespoke menu for your child, ready for September. You can contact Katy Williamson from the special menus team. You can find her details below and also on their 'contact us' webpage; <https://edwardsandward.co.uk/contact-us/>



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate Morey and the Governing Body for their hard work, support and commitment throughout this process. Their incredible efforts have helped us secure what I believe is an excellent outcome from what was, unfortunately, a far-from-ideal situation.

Attached to this letter is the proposed menu for September 2026. We will, of course, resend this information again at the start of the Autumn term.

Finally, Edwards & Ward will be joining us in school tomorrow between 10.00am and 11.00am in the school hall to meet our new Year R parents. They will be bringing food samples for families to try, and any existing parents who would like to pop in, say hello and sample some of the food are very welcome to do so.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to working with Edwards & Ward and are excited about the opportunities this new partnership will bring for our children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Cutler', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs Gemma Cutler
Headteacher