

## HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

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Headmaster: Mr. Warren Honey BSc (Hons), MEd



Dear Key Stage 1 Parent/Carer,

We are aware from some conversations on the gate that there is a concern amongst parents regarding what has been happening with the children's lunches. This letter should help to address these concerns, so you can be reassured about what is happening.

The new restrictions regarding bubbles not mixing has put a demand on services such as catering. After Key Stage 1 children have finished their lunch, a 10 minute cleaning operation is required before we are able to bring in Key Stage 2 children. This has required us to take steps that make the lunch process more efficient, but without the children missing out on their food. We value the children being fed well with nutritious meals, knowing that hungry pupils are not going to be functioning well in the afternoon.

Attached you will see the menus being provided by Mr Long and his catering team from Wednesday onwards (and with minor variations, these have been in operation since the start of term). You will see that the provision is varied across the week, balanced nutritionally and giving scope for choice on each day. He is fully committed to the children having an excellent meal experience and will continue to refine the menu as the weeks pass.

There has been some speculation over the duration of the lunches. Just to confirm, the pupils begin at 11.40am and have a full 25 minutes until the end of their sitting. Teachers have already communicated the preferences of the children to the catering staff, so they are able to provide their plated food rapidly without time being lost queuing whilst children make their choices. We also place the slowest eaters at the front of the queue to maximise their time allocation.

Prior to COVID, the pupils had 30 minutes for the sitting but the time lost through children deliberating over their choices meant that the actual eating time for most equated to the same as we have now.

As an additional step to help children finish their main meal fully, desserts are now of a form that can be taken from the Dining Room and consumed on a bench in the Lower Prep playground if their designated time has passed. Hence, our children should be full from their lunch and able to concentrate through the afternoon.

Please be reassured that the dining experience has not been an area we wished to compromise on and whilst the first few days in September tested the logistics involved, we maintained the principle of ensuring all children were accessing a nutritious menu.

Yours sincerely

Warren Honey

Headmaster

Manjit Chand

Head of Prep School