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**ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Wednesday, 4th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Since the pandemic and the challenges that presented to schools, our catering set-up here at Ellis Guilford School, has relied on the use of external Food Pods. Children have been able to purchase 'grab and go' style foods from these Food Pods at break and lunch time. They have also been able to use the canteen, although different year groups accessed this at different times. This meant that some children had a much later lunch than others.

To ensure that all children have the opportunity to enjoy a sit-down meal every day, we have now introduced a Split Lunch system here at Ellis Guilford School, to support Family Dining.

What is Family Dining?

Family Dining is where a whole year group eats together in the school canteen. Staff will also eat lunch with the children. Discussion is encouraged; an opportunity for children to connect with their peers.

Why operate Family Dining?

Since the pandemic and the increase in smart phones, it has become increasingly difficult for our children to connect with their peers in a social setting. It is part of our responsibility here at school, to encourage and develop these social connections. Family Dining is one way of doing that. In using Family Dining, we're also able to ensure all children are able to purchase a sit-down, warm meal.

What food will my child have access to during the day?

Breakfast – We offer a (currently free) breakfast for all children from 8.15am-8.30am in the canteen.

Break – Children have access to their Food Pods to purchase light snacks and drinks. All snacks and drinks in the Food Pod are priced at £1.25 or less. There is no obligation to buy a snack, and children often opt to bring their own snack from home.

Lunch – Children access the canteen as a year group. All food served in the canteen is part of the Meal Day priced at £2.50 which includes a choice of:



- A Main Meal and a Dessert
- A Jacket Potato or Pasta and a Dessert
- A Baguette and a Dessert

Children are also able to eat their packed lunch in the canteen if they wish to. Children not wishing to eat, will be able to enjoy the company of their peers. Fresh water is available on tables at all times.

There are also a number of card games including Dobble, Uno and others such as Dominos and 5-second-rule, available for children to play.

Please find attached to this email, a copy of our Tariff which includes a break down of the various snack options that may be available during the break time – although not all will be on offer every day.

Arbor Pay

Please ensure children have funds available on their Arbor Pay account to purchase the food required. If children are Free School Meals, their allowance will automatically be added to their lunch card. Children should use this at lunch time, rather than on break snacks.

Kindest regards,

Ms Johnson
Principal