



Pensford Primary School, Pensford, Bristol, BS39 4AA
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Tuesday, 26 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Catering Arrangements

As many of you will be well aware, the school dinners at Pensford are provided by the catering company, Edwards and Ward. We have been very lucky that, in recent months, they have provided us with a superb cook, Diane Wenlock. Diane has been absolutely brilliant in the kitchen for us and her experience cooking across many different settings and restaurants has brought an expert eye to the provision of school food to the children. As someone who regularly buys the school meals here, I can say that her cooking is always delicious!

It was therefore a real disappointment to us to learn at the start of the month that Diane has now decided that it is time to hang up her chef's apron and retire. She will certainly be sorely missed by us at Pensford. Edwards and Ward have been busily engaged in the recruitment process to find a replacement for Diane and unfortunately to date they have not been able to find anyone who can take over from her when she leaves at the end of the month (her last day will be Thursday!).

So they have made an interim arrangement for next week in which the meals will be cooked at Chew Stoke School and delivered to Pensford. The cook in charge of that process is Jess Boulton, who previously worked here at Pensford and is very familiar with our kitchen. This same arrangement has previously worked well when Diane was away on a holiday that had been booked prior to her starting with Edwards and Ward. All food safety and hygiene arrangements will of course be in place. I understand that Edwards and Ward will be interviewing now for Diane's replacement, so the arrangement with Chew Stoke should be temporary.

A further complication, however, is that Jess Boulton will herself not be in work next Wednesday, 4th October. For all of these reasons, I need to let you know of two menu changes for next week:

- **Tuesday, 3rd October:** There will be no fish pie, so the choices will be pizza (margherita or ham) as well as the usual jacket potato options
- **Wednesday, 4th October: significant change** – this will be a sandwich menu ONLY (cheese or ham) served with fruit, crudités and choice of yoghurt or cake.

I do apologise to parents for the inconvenience caused. The recruitment difficulties being experienced by Edwards and Ward are significant and I do know that they have been working flat out to find a replacement as soon as possible for Diane. I had hoped that by now I would have been able to bring you better news of this process, but rest assured that I continue to be in regular contact with Edwards and Ward and will keep you up to date as the situation improves.

Meanwhile, the process for ordering food will remain exactly the same and your child can simply continue to tell their teacher what they would like at registration each day. We will take feedback through the Parent Council towards the end of term on any changes that parents notice, but will be working hard to minimise any noticeable change as far as the children are concerned.

On a personal note, I wish Diane a very happy retirement and would like to thank her for the superb work she has done for us in the kitchen at Pensford. Good luck, Diane!

Warrick Barton
(Headteacher)

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