



## **Homerswood Primary & Nursery School**

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Headteacher: Miss Mica Kettle BEd (Hons), MaST  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Fitts BA, PGCE  
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January 29th 2025

Dear parents and carers

### **School Meal Price Increase**

I am writing to advise you of Herts Catering Limited (HCL) pricing for the 25/26 financial year, which will apply from 1st April 2025.

We are living through an historic period of high inflation, with labour costs increasing again by 9.8% in April 2024 (National Living Wage), and food costs continuing to exceed central inflation measures (15.0% in November 2023) – both far outstripping any increases in funding for school meals.

Whilst HCL always looks for efficiencies and innovations, they are passionate about food, which is why they will not seek to offset these cost increases by fundamentally reducing the quality of our meals to pupils. They believe in the importance of quality, nutritious meals, which both nourish our children for the day, but also provide them with an understanding of good, balanced food – which will stay with them long after their school days are over.

- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are still entitled to a Universal Free School Meal
- **The price per meal for Key Stage 2 children will increase to £3.45 from April 1st 2025.**

We are sorry to have to pass this increase in meal costs to our families but we do not have a choice as HCL have set this price per meal and budgetary constraints would not allow us to subsidise them.

Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

**Income Support**

**Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**

**Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**

**Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**

**The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**

**Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)

**Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

**Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes **5 mins** and in most cases we can tell you straight away if your child can get free meals at school. Please apply following this link.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/At-school/Free-school-meals/Free-school-meals.aspx#year3>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "MKettle .".

Mica Kettle  
Headteacher