

# Heswall Primary School

*'Better Never Stops'*



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Dear Parents and Carers,

30.08.23

I am writing to you to advise you of the current financial situation at school and changes that are being made by the governing body to help protect the school and its ability to prioritise and maintain the children's education.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, it cost £1,448,825 to run Heswall Primary School. We received a school budget of approximately £937,701 and we get some additional income through grants including those for Pupil Premium and Sport Grants. We are also allocated an element of early-years funding for many of the children in pre-school from the term after they turn 3 (some 2 year olds also have some entitlement). The rest of the income is from what we can generate ourselves including selling school dinners, providing wrap around clubs both before and after school and additional pre-school sessions.

Due to another year of ongoing inflation, the school will find it even more difficult to meet these increasing costs from its own budget this financial year. Continued rises in energy and food costs have been factored in but also staffing costs continue to rise on the back of last year's (pre-April) additional costs that we had to meet from the school budget without receiving any additional funding. We are not alone in this and the challenge is being faced by most schools.

The school has again carefully reviewed all of its service level agreements and all costs to the school to ensure that we continue to get the best value for money at all times. In order to ensure that any current and future costs do not derail our ability to provide the highest standards of education, the school will need to increase the cost of some of its provision.

School dinners will increase to £2.50 per day and is a 15p increase for children in Pre-school and Key Stage 2. Children in F2, Y1 and Y2 will not be impacted by any changes as a government grant pays for their meals. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive annual increase after previously remaining unchanged for 6 years. We have compared our prices to that of Edsential. This is the company that many local primary schools use to provide their school dinners and they currently charge £2.68 per day. At Heswall, the school runs its own kitchen and therefore we can set our own price. The costs for additional services for the academic year 2023-24 are:

Beehive (Breakfast Club): £6.50 (Increase of £1)

Beehive (After School Club): £10.00 (Increase of 50p)

School Dinners (Pre-School, Y3-Y6): £2.50 (Increase of 15p)

Pre-School (3 hour session) : £17.50 (Increase of £1)

The governing body's decisions to increase prices on some of our services have been taken with regret and is due to absolute necessity. We are aware that the current cost of living crisis continues to have an impact on everybody and we will continue to run our services to the best of our ability to the highest possible standards during this uncertain time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lawrenson, Headteacher



OUTSTANDINGLY  
HAPPY school

