



# St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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9 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from my email in the summer term, the school is unfortunately still having to pay a significant amount each month to cover the cost of meals which are booked for pupils eligible for free school meals and which are not eaten.

This is unavoidable for pupils who are out ill, but what is apparent is that many pupils who have been booked to have a free school meal are bringing packed lunches and eating those instead. Whilst this does not impact parents/carers, it does impact the school financially. Over the month of September, the school had to pay for **105 uneaten meals**, which equated to a cost of **£311.85**.

**We ask that if your child is eligible for free school meals, you only book meals for those days which you do not intend to send your child to school with a packed lunch.**

With the current financial restraints on schools, we cannot afford to be covering the cost of uneaten meals to this extent going forward. We will be in touch with those families who are booking school meals and also sending pupils with packed lunches to try and understand why this is happening and support them in cancelling meals when they are not needed.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mr Croghan  
Headteacher

Worthing Deanery Schools



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