

Mr Rohan Allen
Head Teacher



Rebecca Cheetham Nursery & Children's Centre
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Dear parents/carers,

We are writing to you to explain about the lunch service and applicable charges at Rebecca Cheetham Nursery School in a transparent and informed way.

Lunch times at Rebecca Cheetham Nursery are a very important part of the school day. It's an opportunity for all the children to come together after a busy morning of play, supported by caring, trained staff who help children make healthy choices, develop independence and encourage conversation, dialogue and opportunities to develop their palette, trying a wide variety of foods.

The lunches are served to the children in a "family style" service and mimic the way a group of people would sit down socially for a meal. This helps children develop their socialisation and conversational skills.

The lunches served are a hot, nutritious and freshly cooked meal and children are more inclined and encouraged to eat when they see their friends and classmates eating the same thing. Parents often request that their child is allowed to stay for the lunch provision, comment that their children eat more "adventurous" foods at nursery than they do at home and that it's an enjoyable experience for them.

Juniper, the company that provides our school meals, tell us the following:

- Our school menus are carefully designed by our development chefs in partnership with pupils, parents, the school and our dietitian.
- The team ensure new foods and tastes are experienced as well as firm favourites are also enjoyed. Our school Chef Managers will prepare and serve these hot, healthy and nutritious dishes with support from all levels of the business.
- You can be reassured that all menus in your child's school will always exceed the Government's tough School Food Guidelines.

Juniper also cater for children's food intolerances: "At Juniper we know that managing medical diets can cause a lot of anxiety for both parents and schools. That's why we run a robust Medical



2022-2025



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Diet Policy, to ensure pupils are kept safe every day." It's reassuring to know that the food that we are serving the children will also keep them and the children around them safe.

From a time saving aspect, not having to worry about getting a lunch together every day takes the hassle and stress away from you.

As of 1st April 2025, we have been informed by Juniper that the cost of a lunch will be rising to £3.23 per lunch, which was a very slight increase thankfully. We don't charge you any more than we are charged by Juniper. As a reminder, the cost of the meal, however, can be further reduced to you, if you are eligible and you pay using the government's tax free childcare scheme.

We would like to maintain that our lunch service continues to run in this way but if for some reason you would like to opt out, please inform a member of the office team to discuss how an alternative provision might work. Our aim is to be as transparent and cost effective as possible and we are proud to offer paid, high quality nursery childcare, alongside the government funded hours, that is generally much less expensive than our competitors.

If you want to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the office team.

Kind regards,

Rohan Allen
Headteacher

