HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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NEWSLETTER 23

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18th **March 2022**

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school next week for your child's Parent's Evening appointment.

If you are yet to receive your appointment time, please contact your child's class teacher.

School Meals

The contract that we have with Halton Catering Services means that we are charged for 149 hot meals every day that our school is open – even if we do not serve this number of meals. This means that our annual bill is now almost £70,000 – which is a huge amount of our school budget.

This is because every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to a free school meal AND every child in our junior classes whose parents or carers have successfully applied for free school meals are also entitled to a school meal every day – and the local authority charge us for every one of these regardless of whether the child is in school or if they choose to bring a packed lunch into school instead.

As we have a number of families who pay for their child to have a school meal either just on a Friday or for a set number of days each week, we have been exploring ways that we can ensure that we get best value for money for the service that we receive.

Whilst we are blessed to have a wonderful school cook who is supported by two amazing kitchen assistants – and the quality of the food and meals are very good – we believe it would be more prudent if those families whose children are entitled to a free school meal and choose not to have these – whether this is for just one day or all five days in the week – consider donating this meal to a family who would like their child to have a school meal but need to pay for this.

Provided everyone agreed to this, based on the current number of children who are bringing a packed lunch to school and are therefore not having a school meal, this would allow us to serve all of our children who have a hot meal in school to have this for free (and nobody would need to pay). *However, if the number of children who start to take a school meal increased because of this plan, then we would still need to charge for school meals – but would hope to significantly reduce the cost to just £1.50 (or even £1) per meal each day – saving families at least £5 each week (and £190 over the year, for those families who pay for a meal every day)!*
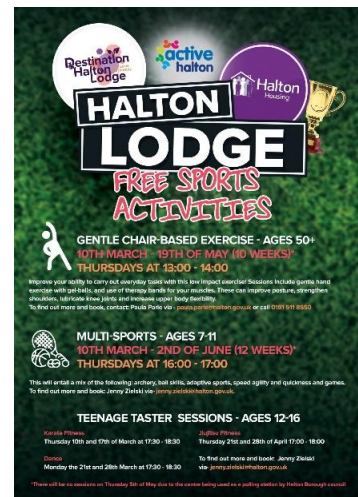
To make this happen, we will be sending a message to each family who is currently not accessing their child's full free entitlement to a free school meal – via Studybugs – over the next few days to see if you are in agreement to donating your meal to another child free of charge (as we can only do this with your consent). *Please give this some consideration so that you can reply to this message straight away; and we can implement this plan.*

We intend to manage this initiative carefully to ensure that there is no unnecessary food wastage but, if successful, we hope to be able to stop taking payments for all school meals from the start of the summer term.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, please also consider making best use of this entitlement – as, with the cost of living going up, this is one of the ways that you could reduce your outgoings and save money.

With this in mind, any family who agrees to donating their child's free school meal to another child in school, will be able to change their mind – and for their child to start accessing these immediately, at any time.

Miss Hunt's Easter Raffle

Thank you to everybody who has supported Miss Hunt and her fundraising – by buying raffle tickets for one of the Easter Hampers.

These tickets will remain on sale for the whole of next week – and we look forward to announcing the lucky winners (and how much money has been raised) following the draw on Monday 28th March.

Halton **L**odge **P**rimary **S**chool   -   *Happy   Learning   Promotes   Success   !*