



Saint Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy



(St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust)
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Love one Another as I have Loved You
John 13:34

Headteacher: Mrs C Crosse

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Slater

16th December 2019

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you about some changes to lunchtime after Christmas. This year we are working closely with a company that advise and support us in making changes to the dining hall and outside areas to encourage a better lunchtime experience for all children. We have already implemented some changes in the dining hall in how we set out the tables and moving to three sittings. The children have responded well to this and it means that packed lunches and school dinners all sit together to enjoy their lunch.

We are also working closely with Jan Macdonald, our kitchen manager to revise the menu and food choices on offer for the children. We have ordered a salad bar to encourage children to make healthier choices. The new menu is attached to this letter and will be available on our website and school office. We haven't increased the school meal price for several year and to enable us to offer high quality healthy choices we will be increasing the cost of a school dinner to £2 per day from 7th January 2020.

If your child has a packed lunch I would also like to ask for your support by encouraging children to have a balanced healthy packed lunch. Children should not have sweets or large amounts of chocolate in their packed lunch. Please remember not to send foods containing nuts. I would like to ask not to send sugary / sweet drinks into school. Fresh water is available on every table in the dinner hall so all children can have unlimited water with their school dinner or packed lunch. We will also trial adding some fruit to the water to encourage more to drink it. All children should bring a named bottle into school that only contains water to drink in the classroom.

Another change we are making after Christmas is in the outside areas. We currently have a Key stage one and key stage two playground. At lunchtime only, we will be zoning the whole playground to enable children in Year 1-6 to play in any area of the playground. This will encourage children to socialise and play together. There will be a dedicated ball area, quiet area, free play area and equipment area, alongside the trim trails, prayer area and table tennis tables. The rules for the trim trails will stay the same – KS1 and KS2 play area. I will be making some changes to ball days and will explain this to the children at the beginning of term.

With the new food sittings, it means there is only ever four year groups outside at one time.





Approximate timings outside:

12.00-12.20: Yr3-6

12.00-12.45: Yr 1,2,5&6

12.45-1.10- Yr1,2,3,4

There are no changes to the Foundation stage playground. They will still have their own area and equipment and with the same staff.

I will work closely with all lunchtime supervisors to ensure the changes at lunchtime are monitored closely and we will adapt and make any other changes as we deem necessary. I want to reassure you that these changes have been recommended and they have been very successful in other schools. The children will be suitably supervised and first aiders will always be available during unstructured times.

Thank you for your ongoing support with the changes to our lunchtime experience.

Your sincerely,

Mrs Crosse