

27th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Lunchtimes at West Acton Primary School

Last year, we introduced several changes to lunch times due to COVID -19 – we intend to keep some of the positive changes along with new improvements, in order to make lunch time safe and enjoyable.

1. Reception, Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 will have lunch at 11.30 – 12.30.
2. Elm, Birch, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will have lunch at 12.30 – 1.30.
3. All pupils will eat their lunches in the hall.
4. Each class will have one SMSA allocated to take them to lunch.
5. The lunch hour will be divided into eating and playing sessions.
6. When playing, children will be able to move freely and mix, but the playground is now in zoned areas.
7. Each area has a shed of equipment and a 'little library' of books.

Prior to COVID-19 we had eight SMSAs – we have worked hard to recruit excellent additions to our team and now have thirteen SMSAs – all old and new SMSAs have had extensive training and are committed to make lunch time fantastic. We have heavily invested in equipment and have spent time teaching the children how to use it, along with learning outdoor games.

There are a few children who sadly struggle to behave respectfully at lunchtime, in particular they do not listen to the SMSAs and put themselves and others at risk of danger. This is not acceptable. If a child does this or is repeatedly breaking a school rule at lunchtime, they will be sent to the Senior Leadership team. The Senior Leadership team work throughout lunch time daily. ***If your child is sent to the Senior Leadership team, you will receive a text message to your phone about this.*** If the incident is serious or this behaviour continues you will be called to school for a meeting. We hope that this will not be necessary. In order to support us with this, we ask that each of you discuss with your child, the need to behave safely and respectfully at lunch time and listen to all school staff.

To further improve lunch times please ensure your child has their packed lunch or the school dinner is paid for, they know how to use a knife and fork, they know if they have allergies and what meal option they should be choosing. We are looking forward to working with the new caterers, ISS, and significantly reducing the amount of food wasted. They have promised West Acton a tasting session for parents/carers later in the term.

The new Ealing School caterers are called ISS, it is no longer Harrisons. Ealing Catering Consortium has given the school dinner contract to new caterers from September. As a result all parents, who pay for school dinners in years 3,4, 5, and Nursery, MUST register with ISS before the first day of term otherwise your child will not be provided with a school lunch. Most parents have now done this but there are still a few who need to register. Please see the link on our website to help you do this <https://www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk/edu/west-acton->

[primary-school/](https://www.westactonprimaryschool.org/parents/schooolunches) and the exciting new menu
<https://www.westactonprimaryschool.org/parents/schooolunches> .

If you wish your child to pray at lunchtime, all year round, please email me on admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk. Last year it was fantastic that so many children wanted to continue to pray after Ramadan however several older children's behaviour was inappropriate and disrespectful. Please do discuss with your child whether praying at lunchtime is the right choice for him/her and if yes, please ensure that he/she knows how to and brings their own mat or scarf if needed.

Children can still be awarded house points and wristbands at lunch time so we look forward to seeing their excellent behaviour!

We are also hoping to offer a range of short lunchtime club activities later on in the term.

Thank you for your support with this important area of the school day. We look forward to seeing our school values of Courage, Consideration and Collaboration in action!

Yours faithfully,

Karen Kondo
Headteacher