



Monday 13th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an upcoming change to the way our mid-morning breakfast snack provision runs at school. It is with a heavy heart I am needing to share that after the Christmas break, HCFS will no longer be offering a toast snack to the children each morning. This has not been an easy decision for us to make therefore I would like to explain the reasons for this change to you.

I am sure from following the news, you are aware that schools are (and have been for a couple of years) facing challenging times as a result of increasing strain being placed onto their budgets. In addition to this, the recruitment crisis across the entire education sector is continuing to intensify meaning staffing levels in schools remain fragile.

On an annual basis, providing a toast snack for the children each morning costs the school approximately £2,100. This cost has been calculated from combining the cost of the produce required with the cost of staffing required to prepare it. On the inception of this provision, termly monetary donations from parents were requested to contribute to the cost of this provision. Over the years, these donations dwindled and when the cost of living crisis hit, the school made the decision to support our families by no longer requesting donations. Therefore, for approximately the past three years, HCFS has been fully funding this provision for all.

In addition to the above, over the past 12-18 months, we have seen a number of our staff leaving HCFS. Not to work in other schools but to leave the education profession altogether. This is due to increasing pressures and challenges being faced within the sector as well as being able to secure a role within different industries which provide them with a higher salary. When recruiting for vacancies, we have been in the same position as many other schools and have needed to advertise on multiple occasions as there seems to be a lack of applicants expressing their interest in the roles available.

As a school, we have tried to persevere and make other adaptations within school to allow this provision to work but ultimately, the time has come to admit that continuing to provide toast on a daily basis is unsustainable.

Therefore, upon our return to school in the Spring Term 2024, we will be asking families to provide their child with one healthy breakfast snack per day, if this is something they would like to do. Some examples of items that could be sent each day are shown on the reverse of this letter. We must take this opportunity to remind you all, in the interests of safeguarding our pupils, we are a nut free school and therefore any breakfast snacks being sent in must be nut free.



I hope this letter provides you with the understanding as to why this change is required and illustrates to you that this has not been an easy decision to make. I would like thank you in advance for your understanding and support of this change.

With best wishes,

BHobson

Mrs Hobson
Principal

Ideas for a healthy breakfast snack



Portion of cooked meat



Raisins



Breakfast Bar



Banana



Smoothie pouch



Portion of grapes, cut in half length ways for younger children



Cereal Bar



Satsuma



Portion of tomatoes

Portion of strawberries



Yogurt



Carrot sticks



Portion of cheese



Apple

