

Booking Hot School Lunches for the Autumn Term 2026 for children in Years 3 to 6

The booking window is now open on Arbor for children requiring school lunches next term (Autumn Term 2026). Booking is necessary for **ALL** children requiring a lunch – **including children in receipt of Free School Meals.**

Changes in Eligibility for Free School Meals

We would like to make you aware of the changes to the Free School Meals eligibility from 1 September 2026.

From 1 September 2026, there will be two categories of free school meal eligibility:

Targeted Free School Meals: Children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less. These pupils will attract pupil premium and other disadvantaged funding. Other entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will also be based on this category.

Expanded Free School Meals: Children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400. These pupils will be entitled to free school meals only and will not attract pupil premium.

We encourage all families in receipt of Universal Credit who are not currently entitled to free school meals to apply from 1 August 2026, using the following link [free school meals application form](#).

There is no requirement to reapply if you are already in receipt of Free School Meals."

Booking lunches for the Autumn Term

If your child requires lunches you will need to make choices for the whole of the Autumn Term (**from Monday 7th September to Friday 18th December**). Menus are available on the school website. Menus repeat half termly, therefore for the menu returns to Week 1 again after October half term. This term there are three options available each day – Meat Option, Vegetarian Option and a Deli Option, except for the last day of term (Friday 18th December), when only packed lunch style options are available.

To sign up for lunches, please click on the link below and follow the specific Arbor guidance depending on whether you are booking via the Arbor Portal or the Arbor App.

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/6956696271261-Meal-Menu-choices-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-Parent-App>

If you pay for lunches and your child is signed up for lunches this term, when you go into the Meals section of Arbor, there will be a positive balance on your account. Unless you paid over the amount required for the spring term, this is a 'false positive balance' and this balance is required for lunches booked for the remainder of this term. Therefore, unless you overpaid last term, you will need to ensure that you pay for the total value of lunches required for the summer term.

For reference, if your child requires lunch every day, the total cost of lunches for the whole of the Autumn Term is £179.40. Should your child only have lunches on certain days, you will need to calculate the amount you need to load on to your child's account ahead of making lunch choices. **Lunches for the Autumn term will be at the increased cost of £2.60 each.**

Once the booking window closes, you will not be able to see the lunch choices you have made, so if you need a record of your choices, please ensure you take a screen shot of your booking choices.

The booking window closes on Wednesday 5th August at 10am. Late order requests cannot be accommodated.

If you have any queries, please contact the school office.