



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



9 September 2026

Dear Families,

Ref: School Lunch Provision and Menus for Academic Year 2026-27

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind families of our school lunch arrangements and the approach we take to providing healthy, balanced and accessible meals for our students.

Our lunch menus have been developed following consultation with students, feedback from staff, and analysis of food preferences and food waste. Our aim is to support as many students as possible to enjoy healthy school meals while recognising that some students have specific preferences or sensory processing needs which may affect the foods they are willing or able to eat.

To support these individual needs, menu items are served separately where possible. For example, pasta and sauce may be provided individually rather than pre-mixed, allowing students to combine foods in a way that suits their preferences and sensory needs. Alongside the daily menu, a range of alternatives is available, including wraps, jacket potatoes and sandwiches.

Each day, classes complete a lunch register, during which students are supported to indicate whether they would like a hot meal, a cold meal or a packed lunch. Menus are clearly labelled by week and date and will continue to be shared through the Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter.

We would also like to remind families that we are unable to accommodate daily personalised food requests, such as specific items including chips, nuggets, sausages or branded food products. This is due to operational requirements, updated allergy guidance and our commitment to meeting the Food for Thought healthy eating standards.

Students are therefore expected to choose from the school menu. If the menu does not meet a student's personal preferences, families may provide a packed lunch from home instead. This arrangement does not apply to students with medically confirmed food allergies, ARFID, or other specialised medically prescribed dietary requirements. These students will continue to receive approved alternative provision in line with their individual needs.

If you are unsure whether your child's needs fall within this category, please contact:

- Mrs Cartwright, Assistant Headteacher (Primary Department):
primary@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
- Mr Mason, Assistant Headteacher (Secondary Department):
secondary@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

The cost of a school lunch is £1.80 per day (£9.00 per week) and payments can be made through Arbor. Students in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to receive Universal Free School Meals, and eligible students may also receive Free School Meals once eligibility has been confirmed. We encourage all families to check whether they may qualify for Free School Meals through the LGfL eligibility checker.

If you need assistance with checking eligibility, please contact the school office at reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Please note that if a child arrives at school without a packed lunch and no alternative arrangements have been made, we will assume that a school meal is required and the appropriate charge will be applied, unless the child is entitled to Universal Free School Meals or Free School Meals.

We remain committed to ensuring that lunchtime is a positive experience for all students and thank families for their continued support. By working together, we hope to maintain a lunch provision that reflects students' preferences, reduces food waste and promotes healthy eating across the school.

<https://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Changes-to-the-lunch-provision-and-menu-from-term-5-24.3.2026.pdf>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miss McComasky', written in a cursive style.

Miss McComasky
Office Manager