



25th March 2026

School Meal Cost Increase April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Lancashire County Council Catering provides healthy and nutritious school meals for all pupils at Barden Primary School, including meals for children with allergies or special dietary needs. Due to rising food costs, Lancashire County Council has increased the price they charge schools for meals. Over the past few years, Barden has been able to subsidise the cost of school meals to keep the price as low as possible for families. However, with declining school budgets and rising costs, we are no longer able to subsidise meals at the same level. **From Monday 13th April 2026, the cost of a school meal will be £2.90 per day, £14.50 per week.**

Free School Meals (FSM)

Children in **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2** will continue to receive Free School Meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

Children in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** may qualify for Free School Meals if parents/carers receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (household income less than £7,400 a year after tax)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not receiving Working Tax Credit, income under £16,190)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit "run on" (paid for four weeks after employment ends)

How to Apply

You can apply online using this link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/> If you need support with the application, please contact the school office:

☎ **01282 226777**

✉ **office@barden.lancs.sch.uk**

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs C Holgate, Headteacher, Barden Primary School