



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve

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Tuesday 15th July 2025

School Meals Catering Service Update

Dear families

Our work to bring school meals catering in-house from September is well underway. Please keep a lookout on your school's social media for further updates as we move into the summer holiday.

Catering Manager Alex Crawley has visited pupils in schools to get their feedback on school meals and has met some of you on his travels too. Things are getting exciting!

School Meal Price

From 1 September 2025 (the new school year) the cost of a school meal per pupil will be £2.61. This price is in line with the DfE's (Department for Education) school meal funding rate for 2025–2026. We always do everything we can to keep costs down and maintain affordability for families, whilst ensuring that we continue to offer balanced, freshly prepared meals in line with government nutrition and portion guidelines.

Please remember, **you may be eligible to apply for Free School Meals**. You can access further information and check eligibility via the North Somerset Council web site at: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals> Alternatively, please speak to a member of the school office team who can show you how to apply.

All pupils in reception class, year 1 and year 2 will continue to receive a free meal through the government's Universal Infant Free School Meal programme. However, if your child/children are in these year groups, and you believe your family are eligible for free school meals, it is important that you still apply, **as the school will receive additional funding that will provide additional support and benefits for your child.**

School Grid

We will be implementing School Grid for the ordering and payment of school meals from September. The system is designed to make meal selection easier, more efficient, and tailored to your child's dietary needs.

In order for your account to be created, we will be sharing some of your information with School Grid. You can view their Privacy Policy here:

<https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/termsfuse/Privacy-Policy.pdf>

What you need to do:

1. **Activate your School Grid account**



The initial system setup creates one parent account for payments. This account will be the primary contact. A welcome email will be sent from School Grid with instructions on how to activate the account and create a password. If you have more than one child in the school, it is possible to link all children under the one parent account providing the same email address is used. Please activate your School Grid account as soon as possible – **all parent accounts that are activated by midnight on 31 August 2025 will be entered in a prize draw.** There will be one prize winner for each ELAN school of a £10 voucher. Plus, one overall ELAN prize winner of £100 voucher (winners can opt to have an Amazon voucher or to receive the prize as credit on their child's School Grid account).

2. Provide allergen and dietary information

It is essential that we are aware of any allergies or dietary requirements your child may have. Please ensure you have notified the school so we can take the necessary precautions and ensure your child's safety.

3. Payments and ordering school meals

Meals can be ordered on a daily, weekly, monthly or even termly basis. You can also make a same-day order up to 8:55am.

If you pay for your child's meals, then you have two options on School Grid. You can top up your account by making a card payment or you can set up a Direct Debit. **Your account will need to have the relevant credit amount or a Direct Debit set up to order a school meal.** If you do not have these, you will be unable to order and will receive a reminder message to make payment.

With Direct Debit, School Grid collects the payment on a monthly basis and it is collected in arrears. Your Direct Debit amount can vary depending on the amount of meals taken within the period so a statement will be sent to you two weeks prior to the collection, detailing the exact date and the amount to be collected, as well as all the meals included.

If you order your child's meal in advance and they are then absent on that day, please remember to cancel your order, otherwise you may still be charged. This also helps cut down on food wastage.

Our menu for September is attached to this letter, and we can't wait to begin our first meal service in September. School meal ordering will be available on School Grid from 2 September.

Thank you for your continued support as we take this exciting step forward in enhancing our school meals provision.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please come and speak with us, we are here to help in any way we can.

Kind regards

Banwell School Office