



31st January 2019

New and exciting developments at St Mary's School, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Dear Parents

There are various changes that continue to be made in our school as part of our ongoing improvements. We are continuing to invest in the fabric of our school and we have also recently increased our classroom support in various classes to enable children to have more adult intervention.

Weather permitting, during February half term we will begin the process of replacing the windows and doors in the infant entrances and the hall. We are hoping this will not be too disruptive, with the majority of work taking place in the holidays. We will keep you in touch if this work affects the access around the school yards after the February break and INSET day (Mon 25th Feb).

We are also pleased to announce that we will be investing in new play equipment which will be in place by Easter. This will be installed on the edge of the school field to form a fitness trail around school. In addition we are investing in an additional outdoor pod which will generate more group and meeting space. We are fortunate to be able to provide some additional teaching assistant support in some classes to support learning and provide support if it is needed for groups and individuals.

Mr Bromley has taken great delight in investing in a new set of tablets and ICT equipment to enable classes to use these in all lessons as well as computing. The equipment will arrive over the next few weeks.

Changes to school meal provision.

As part of our developments we have been working over the past few months to make significant improvements to our school meals. With this in mind we will be changing our provider for school meals after the Easter break. Working with the governors and colleagues we have ensured we have some key priorities for the children.

- We aim to ensure that the majority of food is prepared fresh and on the school premises
- We want to ensure the minimum food miles
- We want to provide the best value for the school meals with a varied menu
- We want to improve the quality of the eating experience overall

Finally, we aim to make ordering increasingly easier for families

With this in mind we are making a significant investment in the school kitchen and we have engaged 'Dolce' to provide our school dinners. Dolce produce high quality meals freshly cooked from fresh ingredients. They are experienced providers of primary school meals and

aim to make lunchtimes fun and enjoyable for children. Over the next few weeks we are very excited to be working with school council on our new school menu. Attached with this letter is an example of a sample menu. We will also be introducing you to the staff from Dolce and the meals on offer as part of the parent consultations in the week beginning 11th February (Monday and Tuesday - after school). They will be available to chat to parents about menus, food allergies and answering questions you may have.

One exciting change is the way in which you will be able to order meals which can be done on a daily basis. This will allow parents to order online via Dolce's user friendly 'Live Kitchen' website (even on the morning you require the meal).

We are exceptionally pleased that meals will be made fresh each day in the school kitchen using local ingredients and suppliers. To improve the eating experience the children will eat from plates and not flight trays and there will be a self-service salad bar each day in addition to the varied choices of meals available.

We know the children will really notice a difference as we launch the new system and meals. This will be an opportunity for those who have packed lunches to try out the new meals and for those having school meals already, to delve into the new menu and see and taste and experience the difference.

As parents we hope that you will find ordering easier and that you will be reassured knowing the children are having freshly prepared meals made on the premises.

We will be keeping you informed over the next term about the changes and how to begin to transition from the current system to the new provider in preparation for our return after the Easter break. I hope you and the children will be as excited about the many positive changes in school as we are in planning and preparing for them.

Yours faithfully

Mr Jones

Head Teacher

