

# Ready to serve



Dear Parents/Carers

In response to the latest Government advice, Aspens will resume a nearly normal service in your school and we will continue to provide nutritious meals to the pupils.

Our goal continues to make eating at school a pleasurable experience and offer healthy and nutritious meals in line with Government guidelines. Over the last few weeks, we have introduced changes in line with the latest guidance by introducing new procedures and training in areas such as social distancing, food safety and enhanced cleaning regimes. This means that we can continue to produce and serve food safely for your children.

Here is a summary of what we will continue to do, to give you reassurance as your children return to school:

## Changes your children will notice.

- Make sure we allow for social distancing in our dining rooms and minimise queue times.
- Changes have been made to service areas to avoid queuing, lingering and bottlenecks.
- Signs in the dining room and on plasmas screens will give children a few helpful reminders such as only touching the food they are eating and to avoid sharing food or drinks with others.
- To limit what each pupil touches, we will not have any self-service salad bar options. These will be managed by our team eliminating the use of shared utensils.
- We will still offer a range of sandwiches, boxed salads and baguettes, cakes, and fruit but they will be wrapped. We do understand this will temporarily increase packaging, but we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum level.

## Changes in the kitchen and with our team

- Continued daily briefing sessions to prepare for the day ahead.
- Promoting flexible working hours and rearranging workstations will make sure that social distance measures are upheld.
- Increased kitchen ventilation by opening windows and doors.
- We are limiting the number of deliveries to site and accepting these deliveries on a "no contact" basis.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the kitchen.
- We have new, enhanced recording procedures including food hygiene and safety. Each meal service is then certified as being compliant by our Head of Health & Safety.
- Our teams are carrying out specific return to work and COVID-19 training and will be certified "fit to work".
- We are continuously updating guidance underpinned by bite size training modules for our cooks, chefs, and catering assistants.

## Free School Meals

We also understand that there may be some families that have had a change in financial circumstances and may now be entitled to apply for Free School Meals. We encourage you to visit the following website which will help you to establish if you can claim.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

We appreciate how many changes schools have made and we continue to work closely with them according to their individual requirements.

We are experts in feeding school aged children and are really looking forward to seeing all the children back at school. We also welcome the new starters!

You can contact us via email on [info@aspens-services.com](mailto:info@aspens-services.com) or call on 01905 759613. You will also find a host of information on our website – [www.aspens-services.co.uk](http://www.aspens-services.co.uk)

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