



Lunch time arrangements at Green Park Village Primary Academy

Lunch time

We run a traditional school lunch arrangement. The children eat together in our hall, which becomes our 'dining room'. They sit at family style round tables. Hot meals are served from our hot and cold counters at our specially designed servery.

We will gently encourage children to eat their food and to try new options. However, please note that we will never 'force' a child to eat. We will communicate with parents, as and when appropriate, regarding any observations we make which we feel parents should be made aware of.

School lunches

The government currently fund school lunches for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This is called 'Universal Free School Meals' (USM). Therefore, we encourage all parents to take up this fantastic offer for their child.

Herts Catering (HCL) are our caterer from September 2026. A team cooks the meals on site in our kitchen. This ensures the expertise around food hygiene and standards that match our high expectations around all of our practice.

The menu is set on a three weekly cycle. The dates are on the food menu alongside the three menu weeks. Parents are required to select the desired food choice for their child in advance. This occurs online via ParentPay. If parents do not select a food choice by the deadline, then a packed lunch will need to be provided by the parent or the child is provided with a jacket potato, then charged via ParentPay.

For the transition into Reception (first two weeks in September), parents can elect to order a school meal and provide their own items, if they wish for their child to try school meal food items and to have a 'back up' option. In this circumstance, we will serve the school meal first for children to 'try'. Please talk to the school team if this is an approach you wish to use as the school team follow the printed order lists produced.

Dietary requirements (preferences or allergies)

All dietary requirements can be met via pre order. Details of menus and ingredients are shared in advance for parents' awareness and these are found on our school website:

<http://greenparkvillageacademy.org/school-meals/>

Please read this information to double check your child is able to eat the option you select for them. We act on all information shared by parents regarding their child's dietary needs or preferences. Please ensure that this is provided and then kept up to date in anything changes over time.

Pupil safety

Children with allergies wear a blue wrist band. This ensures our children receive their selected meal at lunchtime and consideration is taken at other times of the school day. The school and HCL team share dietary information to ensure a cross-check occurs:

Packed lunches

Children are welcome to bring in a packed lunch. These get placed on designated trolleys in the cloakroom (EYs and KS1)/ corridor (KS2) at the beginning of the day. The trolleys are then wheeled to the dining hall at lunchtime. Please note that we do not have the facilities to keep lunch boxes cool, so please consider this when selecting food items for your child and packing these items.

It is imperative that lunchboxes are clearly named to avoid any confusion where multiple children may have an identical lunchbox. This is because a child may eat food intended for another child and the most serious outcomes is that they may be allergic to the contents.

We return all 'not eaten' food home in the packed lunch box, so that parents have full visibility on what their child is eating/ not eating. Again, please put thought to this when packing the lunch box.

If you have any questions or queries, please email:

office@greenparkvillageacademy.org