

School Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st January 2026

2.45pm in Headteacher's office

Present: Ana-Laura (Yr1), Samuel (Yr2), India (Yr3), Milly (Yr4), Otis (Yr5), Mrs Fitzgerald (Eco Lead & School Lunches Lead), Mrs Hudson (Headteacher) and Ellyn (nutritionist from Chartwells Catering Company)

Apologies: Mia (Reception), Maxwell (Yr6)

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Several children recognised Ellyn because she had visited their class in the past to do a healthy food workshop or had supported them with cooking or food preparation classes.

Feedback discussion regarding school lunches

Following the completion of the questionnaires and gathering pupils' views of school lunches from last term, the reps presented their feedback and questions to Ellyn.

The questions in the questionnaire and the feedback were the following:

1) Do you have school lunches?

Yes – a lot of people do but there are some people who bring their own lunch. Some days are more popular than others, for example roast days and fish and chips, macaroni cheese and pizza days.

2) If you have school lunches, do you like them?

The majority of the people across all year groups said yes to this. Most people liked the roasts, fish and chips, macaroni cheese and pizza meals.

3) What would you change to make school lunches better?

American style pancakes for dessert. The older children asked for more seasoning. Some of the younger children asked for chicken nuggets and all year groups asked for different types of fruit (eg. mango, pineapple).

4) If you don't have school lunches, why?

Some (older) children said that the cost is too much and it is cheaper and easier to make lunches at home, and they generally prefer their parent's 'homemade' food choices. The reps felt that this was a fair answer.

5) Is there enough choice on the menu?

Yes – the majority of people across the year groups say there is enough choice. A few of the younger children asked for sandwiches.

6) Are the portion sizes right?

Most people said that the portion sizes were good, especially when they can have some bread too and get seconds, or even thirds! Some people across the year groups said that the portions were too much!

7) Is the hall a nice environment for eating your lunch?

Many people were happy. They said that there were nice big tables and enough room for everyone to sit comfortably. Some of the older children said that it was sometimes too noisy (but they realized that this was themselves who were probably making the noise!). A few of the children said that the hall was a bit echoey.

8) Are the staff in the hall at lunchtime friendly and helpful?

Everyone said yes, lots of positive comments.

9) Can you make any suggestions to reduce food waste at lunch times?

Eat all your food; try new foods; choose your own filling and get a school pig!

10) Anything else or any other suggestions?

Would it be possible to have a water dispenser?

The cups for drinking out of are looking very worn and old – could we please have some new ones?

Ellyn responded to the reps' feedback throughout and also explained to the reps about the food standards that Chartwells have to abide to when providing food for schools. The Government tells them how much children (according to age) are allowed and how many times a week you can have something, eg. chips portions. With regards to adding more seasoning, salt is not allowed to be added, and neither is vinegar allowed to be given. Schools are only allowed ketchup once a week. This is all so that children have a good healthy balance of things. There is also a budget that Chartwells have to stick to.

She reminded the reps that there is always bread available and that they can have seconds or thirds (the children said that this does happen). Ellyn will make sure that there will be the option to have extra salad too which should be happening.

Ellyn asked whether they would be interested in trying new foods, and the reps said yes. Ellyn said that she can ask the cooks to have some taster pots around at meal times so that they can try these and if they like them then they can be included into the lunch menu.

Ellyn said that from the reps feedback, she can certainly make some changes. For example, the pancakes can be incorporated each term via theme days. Ellyn said that from Easter, lunches will also include an option to have a filled sandwich.

We thanked everyone for taking the time to meet, listen to the feedback and provide suggestions, and look forward to seeing these ideas.