Selborne Primary School

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Headteacher:
Mrs K.A. Shilling

Inspire & Achieve

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have delayed writing to you whilst I am trying to confirm with the electricity board that the final essential works on our electricity supply will definitely be carried out in school next week (half term week). The whole electricity supply will be cut off to school for a significant time whilst they upgrade the wiring to our school kitchen. We have been waiting for this work to be completed so we can upgrade the school ovens (used to cook school lunches). If this work is actually completed next week, then I have some exciting news!

After half term, we start a new menu cycle with ISS caterers and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays every week, we are going to trial offering pupils the choice of having a Halal meat option for their school dinner. The kitchen is going to still offer a vegetarian food option daily but the meat option on both these days will be Halal meat and also non-halal meat (for those who do not want to eat Halal meat). We know that parents have asked for this and the kitchen now feels confident that they can prepare lunch on these two days offering Halal meat, prepared correctly, for one of the meat choices. This has been possible due to an increased kitchen space including preparation areas (our kitchen expansion), new fridges and freezers, a new increased capacity oven (which required a higher voltage of electricity supply and parts from Europe on a nine-month lead time) and new kitchen resources. A special thank you to Mrs Franchi, our school business manager, for co-ordinating all these works over the past two years so that this can finally happen.

The new menu is on our website and you will see that Monday stays as meat-free Monday (part of Ealing's environmental sustainability drive) so no meat is served. Thursday generally remains pizza day (margarita pizza is the most popular with children as we do not serve pork or beef at school so we cannot offer pepperoni, ham, spicy beef etc) and Friday is fish day (fishfingers, fish fillet, salmon fingers etc) usually served with oven chips (no salt or deep fried) and home-made ketchup (made with fresh tomatoes with no sugar added). I feel that the Halal meat options on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (indicated by a H on the menu) will go down well with the pupils. We are going to trial it until February half term (the next ISS menu cycle) and we will then evaluate how popular it is and what pupils think.

Wednesdays are usually our popular roast dinner day and if pupils do not want meat (Halal or not) then of course, they can still choose the vegetarian option (our tomato and cheese puffs and veggie pinwheel pastries are often more popular with children than meat anyway!).

We do try to respond to parents' feedback and I look forward to the pupils' feedback on our improved menu choice.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K. Shilling
Headteacher