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LATEST UPDATE - UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

I have just received an update from Buckinghamshire County Council. It would appear from this template letter that they will be able to provide a free packed lunch for your child from 4th September 2014. There is, of course, no obligation to take up the offer and you can still provide your child with a packed lunch from home if you wish. All lunches will continue to be eaten in the classrooms.

Sue Barnes

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you are all aware of the Government's policy to offer all infant (Reception and Key Stage 1) pupils free school meals from September 2014.

This school, like over 60 others across the county has not previously been able to provide a school meal service and having considered the options open to us now we have decided to opt into a scheme being established by Buckinghamshire County Council. Over 40 schools are looking to be part of this service.

To ensure our children get the best possible meal service, that meets the Government's current standards for food in schools, Buckinghamshire County Council is currently in the last stages of selecting a suitable hot meal provider.

Due to the short lead in time and the number of schools requiring hot meals for the first time it has been decided that logistically this scheme needs to be rolled out over the Autumn Term ensuring that all schools involved get adequate operational support from Buckinghamshire County Council and the nominated provider.

To ensure that all schools are compliant with the new legislation Buckinghamshire County Council has arranged for our eligible children to have access to a selection of nutritional, quality packed lunches from the first day of term, 4th September 2014 until our hot meal service is available.

Unfortunately, initially we may be unable to cater for children with severe food allergies but if you can inform us of your child's allergies by emailing schoollunches@buckscc.gov.uk we will pass these on to the provider who will see if they can address your child's needs.

Buckinghamshire County Council believe that the success of the project is totally reliant on these meals being of a consistent high quality, in line with the Government's nutritional standards and plan to have on-going dialogue with parents, children and schools to ensure that all have a good school food experience.

