

School Dinners

What Does It Take To Get Food On The Plate?

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We have been on a mission to find out what it takes to get your school meals to you. We have been interviewing the people who make sure you don't go hungry.

First of all, we spoke to the Catering Team. The uniform required for one of the school catering Team is:

- Trousers
- Chef Whites
- Apron
- Crocs that are only worn in the kitchen
- Cap to cover hair

Here at Tany's Dell five people work in our **5 star hygiene rated** kitchen. They are:

- Mrs Weatherly
- Mrs Alsford
- Mrs Rees
- Mrs Munro
- Mrs Maliszewski

Mrs Weatherly, the Catering Manager, would rate our school menus 8/10; Mrs Munro would give them 9/10! The Catering Manager has trained as a chef and several have learnt at Tany's Dell with on the job training and health and safety courses. Their work hours span 9.00am – 2.00pm so that we can eat scrumptious meals. Everyone we spoke to said they enjoy working here.

Our school is lucky enough to have a large and well equipped kitchen, and includes:

- Four freezers
- Four fridges
- One huge storeroom
- Plus lots of other equipment

To make sure no-one is excluded, our vegetarian option is always similar to the main meal. It is always available to anyone who chooses it. The Tany's Dell menu makes sure all children have the opportunity to make independent choices on what they want for lunch. Here, we are lucky enough to make our own choices from a young age, choosing from the listed options and salad bar. Wow! Tany's Dell is an amazing opportunity for all who attend!

It's not only those in the kitchen who have an impact on your meals; our delightful MDAs are always ready to assist with the children in the dining room as well as keeping them safe on the playground. The Catering Manager has a picture of every child with an allergy. The mid-day staff also double check to make sure nobody is ever placed in danger by having the wrong food.

We also learnt that the majority of our MDAs have up to date first aid training and kits so they can attend to any mishaps or injuries that happen whilst the pupils are playing in our well-equipped and spacious grounds.

Others that also play an important part are often overlooked as they work behind the scenes but they are still extremely important. These include the Admin Team which consists of:

- Mrs Ingram
- Mrs Martin
- Miss Ali

At the start of the financial year a budget is set aside to allow the Catering Team buy the food and equipment. Then, throughout the year, parents pay for school dinners.

To pay, parents put money straight into their Parent Pay account and that is transferred into the school's bank account. Once Mrs Ingram knows how much money has been paid in for school dinners and trips, she checks it against the bank statement. Money is then paid into the budget. Mrs Martin checks Parent Pay to see who owes the school money. After all that, a very small profit is made which is re-invested in new equipment to improve the dining experience for all! Money is also received from the Government so the younger pupils can have free school meals. This is called, Universal Infant Free School Meals.

To keep track of allergies the Admin Team rely on parents to keep them informed. They then in turn relay them to the Catering Team as well as the Mid-days.

So, can you guess the missing piece of the puzzle? IT'S YOU! Following interviews with all who eat, buy or see our meals, we know that several believe they pay a little too much. However, this is surprising as one Tany's Dell meal is less than a coffee at Starbucks [other coffee shop chains are available!].

When you eat your meal, do you ever wonder how it got there? Your parents are kind enough to book all your meals online using Parent Pay, which can also be used to pay for school trips and other related events and it is definitely easy to use.

Most of the children who have a school meal say they enjoy the vast majority of them! The Catering staff are always keen to receive feedback to make your dining experience more enjoyable. They also give tasters to children eating a packed lunch to encourage them to book a school meal.

Even if you're not normally a fan of cooked meals, give them a try. You may be pleasantly surprised! And remember, many more people help to get your meal on the plate than you might expect!

