Ard Easmuinn Dundalk County Louth

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14th April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had a pleasant and restful Easter break. We are delighted that all our pupils have made a successful and positive return to school. I would like to thank parents and pupils again for all their efforts and cooperation with remote learning during the long period of school closure and also thank you for support with the phased return to school before Easter.

I am writing to announce that we have been successful with our application for Hot School Meals and the programme will begin on Monday 26th April.

The hot meal will replace the cold lunch that has been in place to date. When a school enters into this programme, the only option for lunch is a hot meal. There is no opportunity for schools (or lunch providers) to allow some pupils to choose a hot meal and others to continue to select a cold lunch. This carries across all class groupings.

Our lunch supplier, Glanmore Foods, will be rolling the scheme out in our school. They have been involved in the Pilot Project for the Hot School Meals Programme and have had great success working with 6 schools over the past 18 months.

You will find a **Glanmore Foods Hot Meal Menu** attached to this letter. Please fill this out for your son/s and **return by Monday 19th April**.

I will send a link to the Glanmore Hot Meals Brochure out to parents today via text message. It can also be viewed on the school website (Parent Area - Hot Meals). This brochure contains many photos of the options on the menu and is worth a look if your son is unsure what to order.

Please note: Your son/s will continue to receive the snack for small break that was chosen on the old menu for the duration of this school year (along with the Hot Meal at big break). As always, this choice can be amended if required by contacting Audrey in the school office.

We are very excited about this new development for our school and hope that it is a positive experience for all our pupils. Research completed during the pilot phase of this programme was extremely encouraging as it clearly showed an increase in pupil engagement and the nourishment meant pupils were ready to learn. A small change like this could be vital in a child's education and we are delighted to have been successful in our application.

Thank you for your continued support,

M.Murray