

# Welcome back!



## Meal Selection

We now have seven schools live with meal selection across the borough with a further five scheduled for later this month. We have received some great feedback thus far, and we're excited for all remaining schools to see it and share the journey with us!

## Menus

We have been working with Public Health to devise our exciting new menus. We are hoping to launch the new seasonal menus on Monday 2 November however we will be closely analysing the situation over the coming weeks to ensure it is the right time to do so.

## Update on Service Review

We have mentioned previously the actions taken to date. Work is ongoing to improve the service and review our current offer; vital analysis work that is fundamental to the outcome of the review has been delayed due to the global pandemic. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

## Meal uptake

It's important we work together to increase meal uptake. In previous years we have been above the national average at 65 per cent, however since the return to schools in early September we are currently at 38 per cent. It's imperative for children of the borough that we strive to offer the very best we are capable of during this difficult time.

As you are aware for the period April to July BSCS has not recovered any operational costs from you and only charged for actual meals provided. However, as outlined in the correspondence dated Monday 6 July, from September the supplier relief claim may need to be instigated should meal uptake not return to a normal level in order to support our ongoing sustainability and continue to support your schools catering requirements.

Therefore, BSCS's approach to return to a full menu provision and the introduction of a new winter menu, combined with your support to encourage pupils / parents to choose school meals over packed lunches from home will help maximise FSM and UIFSM take up and will minimise the need to claim for ongoing recovery of operational costs.

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