



Ashlands Primary School

A Moorlands Learning Trust Academy

Headteacher: Donna Russell

Leeds Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8JY

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"Every child has the right to shine"

Monday 1st December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exciting News About School Meals at Ashlands – Coming January 2026

We are delighted to share some great news about school meals at Ashlands Primary. From January 2026, we will be introducing a new catering partner to enhance the dining experience for all our pupils.

As our current catering contract was coming to an end, Moorlands Learning Trust undertook a thorough procurement process across our four primary schools. Our aim was simple: to ensure the highest quality food for every child. This process included a detailed review of each provider's business case, focusing on quality, compliance, and value for money. Importantly, pupils played an active role by tasting and evaluating the food, and we visited local schools to see how menus translated into day-to-day meals.

We are pleased to announce that **Hutchisons Catering** has been awarded the contract for our Trust primary schools. We were impressed not only by the quality of their food but also by their ethos and commitment to fresh, nutritious meals as well as their focus on environmental impact.

Ashlands will be the first school to transition when we return to school on Tuesday 6th January, with others following shortly after.

What's New?

- **Freshly Prepared Meals:** All food will be cooked from scratch on site daily, overseen by a dedicated chef manager.
- **Seasonal Menus:** A three-week rotating menu using British ingredients, sourced sustainably and locally wherever possible.
- **Pupil-Approved Choices:** At tastings, pupils particularly enjoyed the variety of options, including fresh crudité's.

Cost and Ordering

- **Key Stage 1:** Children continue to receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.
- **Key Stage 2:** Meals will cost **£2.83 per day**, which is slightly higher than before (an increase of 8p) but remains very competitive. Previously, the school budget has subsidised rising costs to keep prices low, but we must prioritise funds for learning and resources.
- **Nursery Meals:** Meals will cost **£2.40 per day**. As above, this is higher than now (an increase of 10p per meal) Previously, the school budget has subsidised rising costs to keep prices low, but we must prioritise funds for learning and resources.



CEO: Ms Helen Williams

Cowpasture Road Ilkley West Yorkshire LS29 8TR

The Multi Academy Trust is a Company incorporated in England and Wales, limited by guarantee with registered Company number 07663864



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- **Ordering System:** Hutchisons uses an online system called *Appetite*, allowing parents/carers to pre-order meals and view nutritional information. You are also able to indicate any allergies for your child which will then not permit such food items to be ordered.

Welcome to your new menu!

This menu has been created by chefs and nutritionists to offer children appetising lunches which support healthy, balanced lifestyles. The menus change weekly as part of a three-week cycle and offer a variety of hot and cold meal choices each school day. Read on to find out more!

About our food

Each of our menus are created in line with UK Government guidelines and include a **healthy balance** of vegetables, protein, and whole grains. We focus on using **whole ingredients** that provide essential vitamins and minerals for **children's growth and development**.

Did you know?

Eating more plant-based food helps save water, forests, and CO2!

Plant power!

Plant-based dishes are filling, tasty and **packed with nutrients**. They're protein rich & heart healthy, which is why our menus include more pulses, grains, vegetables and fruits than ever before!

Did you know?

All our menus are vegetarian society approved

Save Around Every Year! £500

School lunches are **free** for all pupils in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** as part of the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals programme.

SEASONAL BRITISH FOOD

We build seasonal menus so we can make the most of great UK produce. Food at its seasonal best offers great nutritional benefits, reduces food miles and supports local people. We also work with suppliers who prioritise animal welfare.

OUR SAUCES HAVE ADDED VEGETABLES

...like spinach and lentils to provide extra protein

Did you know?

This year we have reduced sugar in our bakes by 35%

Good for our planet

All of our waste cooking oil is turned into biodiesel and used for fuel, and fresh food **reduces packaging waste!**

OVER 70% OF OUR MENUS ARE VEGETARIAN*

*Across our core and 'Allergen Aware' menus

Hutchison

We want as many children as possible to have access to school lunches, including those with dietary needs. Our catering team can readily provide allergen information for each dish during service, and if your child has any specific allergies, we can offer an **Allergen Aware Menu** to meet their needs. Simply ask us for more information!

Further details, including menus and ordering instructions, will be shared soon.

We are confident this change will bring a positive dining experience for all pupils. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Donna Russell
Head teacher



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