



July 2014

St Richard's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale

The Food Council at St Richard's Catholic Primary School work with their school cook to help make school meals and lunchtime a good experience for everyone. The group was set up following a meeting between the school meals Operations Manager and pupils.

Members of the Food Council regularly consult with each class for feedback or suggestions on school meals. For example the juniors asked if they could have larger cups for their drink at lunchtime.

Themed lunches are arranged with one class at a time, Food Council work with pupils to help choose and plan the menu, advertise the event through assembly, notes in the register, and posters throughout the school. Parents are invited in for lunch on that day from the class who have the theme lunch.

Feedback from some of the parents from the last cartoon and animation theme lunch where everyone dressed up included:

"I thought the choice was good and all went well we where very surprised". "Very nice, I loved being with everyone and I like seeing what food the children eat, it is lovely to have the time to be with my child".

Other themed lunches include the extremely popular Valentine's Day, Easter and they are currently planning the teddy bears picnic lunch for year 3 and the year 6 leaver's do in July.

Every fortnight a top table is set up in the dining room. Pupils are nominated by their teacher, cook or welfare staff for this table for trying something new, good manners or behaviour.

A birthday table has also been introduced after hearing how Woodlea Junior School introduced this idea. Children who have a birthday within the month are invited to come and have a school lunch on the birthday table. To help with the birthday table celebrations as well as the table being set out and a cup cake for each guest there are cards for birthday questions and jokes that the pupils can ask one another.

In response to feedback about queuing for lunch Mrs Burke the school cook has successfully introduced a coloured stick system in the pre-ordering of their meal.

Children pre-order their meal in the morning and then when they arrive in the dining room, welfare staff hand out a colour stick which represents their meal choice. Yellow for the daily choice, blue for the hot heroes choice and pink for spuds and stuff. (Healthy Heroes help support school meals in

Lancashire, designed to help early years and primary age children and their families make healthier food and activity choices).

Food Council are currently recruiting for new Food Council members from year 4 to join the existing team. A presentation on the work of the Food Council was held and pupils asked to apply for a place. Applications were received from the whole class and interviews took place with Food Council who then chose four pupils.