



# Parents Newsletter



Schools have been hosting some fantastic Christmas parties with plenty of fun and festive cheer and our catering teams have been getting dressed up too as they serve traditional Christmas roast dinner and Quorn roast and some tempting desserts.

In this issue we want to tell you about our VIP guests for National School Meals Week, our Award from LACA and lots more. We also have some job opportunities.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy a happy new year!

*Nottingham Catering*



## LACA Awards



We're delighted to have won the LACA Green Menu and Marketing Award for our work to reduce the environmental impacts of our service and our work on promoting eating more sustainable diets with a lower carbon footprint with Eat Them to Defeat Them, TastEd and the Quorn Swap It campaign.

We also have a LACA Award for Excellence for all our Catering Teams in recognition of their work during 2020 and 2021. We are very proud of our catering teams as they have continued to deliver high levels of service throughout the pandemic. They have faced many challenges and the LACA Award is fantastic recognition of the work they are doing.

Read more at  
<<https://www.laca.co.uk/news/laca-reveals-awards-excellence-winners>>



## Children in Need

We had some fabulous Pudsey Bear shortcake biscuits at Forest Town Primary School on Friday 19th November for Children in Need. Hope the children enjoyed their Children in Need celebrations.

## Food Vouchers and Fun

FREE Food is on offer this Christmas holiday for children entitled to Free School Meals. Supermarket e-vouchers will be sent out through schools. Nottingham City Council is offering £15 per pupil for each week of the holidays. Please ask your school for details.

## National School Meals Week

Celebrating all that is great about school meals with a different promotion each day and VIP guest invitations we focused on fun and socialising at school lunch time for National School Meals Week.

Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources and Mary Lester, Acting Director of Neighbourhood



Services at Nottingham City Council rolled up their sleeves to help prepare and serve school meals at local schools.

Visiting Rufford Primary Councillor Webster made some pastry for minced turkey pies and helped serve the school meals.

He said: "I'm impressed by the variety of healthy options available, including a salad bar that went down a treat with the children. They are a dedicated and hard-working catering team giving a good service. It's also great to see so many teachers eating the school meals and sitting down to eat with the children."



The pupils, staff and catering team at Mellers Primary School also had a special guest on Friday - Mary Lester. Getting involved with setting up the dining room and serving the school meal as part of the team, Mary explained: "I really enjoyed working with this passionate and fast-paced, super organised team.

"Seeing first-hand what they have been doing to reduce single-use plastics in the kitchen and how they create healthy meals from scratch, which the children loved, was great to see."

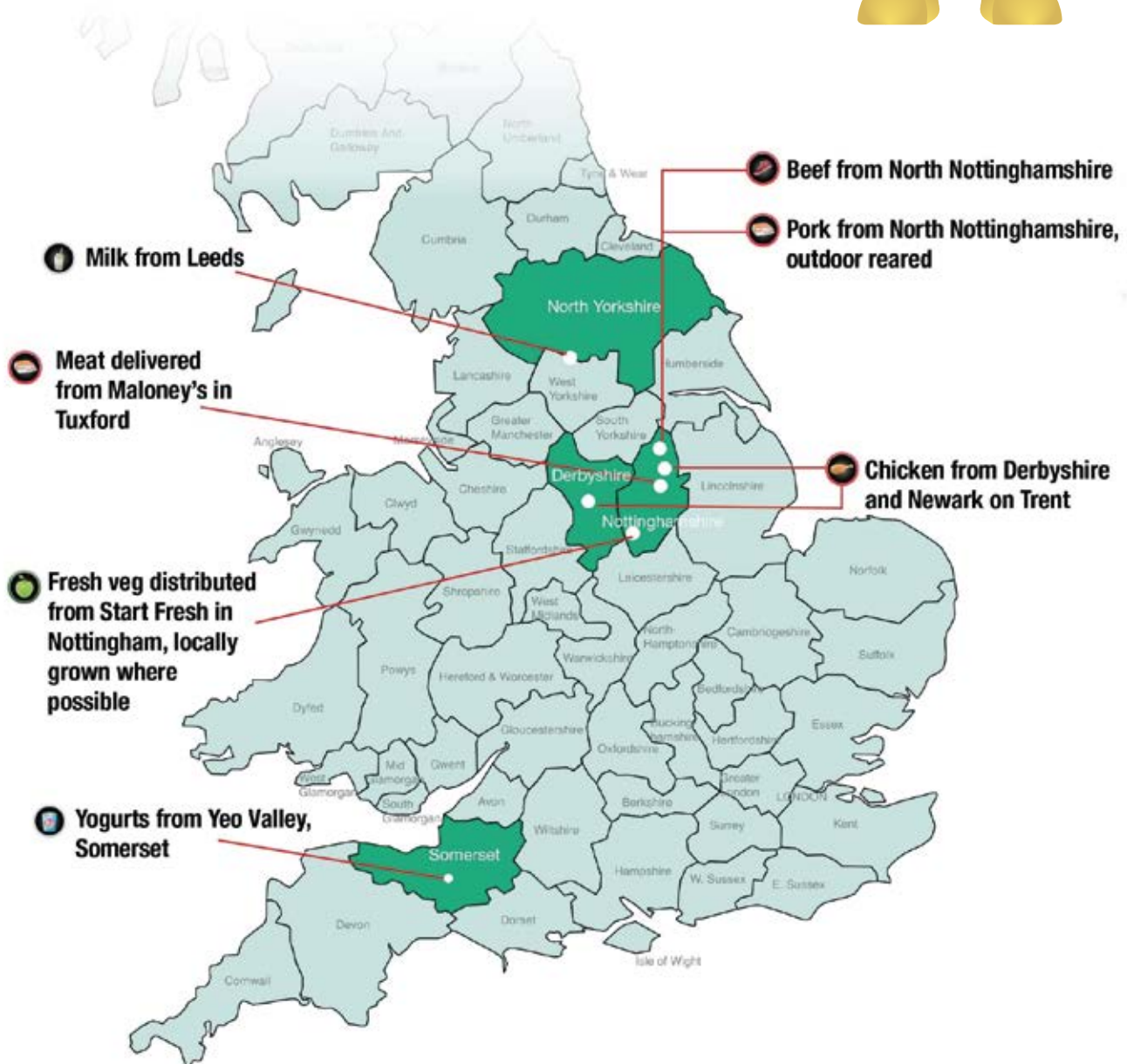


## Where our food comes from...

Our fruit and veg come from a Nottingham supplier so we always have fresh ingredients.

We buy meat from a UK butchers based in North Nottingham and we focus on high quality.

We only use organic eggs and they come from a farm in Lincolnshire.



## Up Coming Promotions

# EAT THE RAINBOW!



### **Eat the Rainbow!**

We'll be encouraging children to eat their fruit and vegetables with our Eat The Rainbow promotion early in 2022, more details soon.

### **Upcoming Theme Days**

We are planning a Winter Warmer themed day in January. And in February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year with our themed menu and decorations.

### **Eat Them to Defeat Them!**

Those vegetables are going down! We're looking forward to launching our Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign at the end of February 2022 to get the children eating more veg. Look out for our veg displays and tasters at participating schools.

### **Job Opportunities**

We regularly have opportunities available for people to join our school catering teams at <https://jobs.emss.org.uk/>

### **Natasha's Law**

From 1 October 2021, the requirements for prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) food labelling changed in line with Natasha's Law. The new labelling will help protect consumers by providing potentially life-saving allergen information on the packaging.

Our school trips lunch bags will now be labelled with allergen information according to Natasha's Law.

## Free School Meals

Did you know that children can continue having free school meals in year 3 and beyond if you are in receipt of certain benefits?

A cooked school meal is a great way to give children all the energy they need to power through the school day. A nutritional school meal helps children concentrate in class as well as supporting their health and well-being.

All schools offer a vegetarian option every day and many of the city's schools provide a halal menu.

Our catering teams make sure there is something for everyone and children have unlimited salad, bread, fresh fruit and water at each sitting.

School meals are free for all children if they are in:

- reception class
- year 1
- year 2

And if you are in receipt of certain benefits your child can continue to have free school meals when they move into Key Stage 2.

It's easy to apply for Free School Meals.

Apply Here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

