

At Park Community School we were aware of the food poverty that some of our community experience and were concerned students were going hungry. This was reinforced when volunteers told us that the local food bank was consistently running out of food. We established a programme to tackle food poverty in our area and **MUNCH** was born in February 2017.

We successfully contacted external agencies for funding and **MUNCH** has been operating for two years supplying nutritious two course meals and activities throughout school holidays. Support agencies are in attendance to engage in conversation with the families.

Play equipment is provided, and our Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust nursing team is also on hand, on a drop in basis, for any concerns the parents may have.

We work with organisations who have excess food which otherwise would go into landfill. This also fills the **MUNCH** fridge, which supplies emergency food provision to the local families most in need.

MUNCH also runs on Thursday nights and monthly Sunday lunches, those are timed to be just before a weekly/monthly pay day.

Our vision for **MUNCH** is to develop a sustainable social enterprise, establishing a community food shop and café to provide volunteering and employment opportunities.

We have recruited our own "Granny" who is loved by the children. Granny plays board games, but also parents are happy to talk to her about anything. We are able to signpost parents to skills based learning through partner organisations.

Barney Barron PO9 Pioneers

I live and work in Leigh Park and have the privilege of partnering in some of the community projects delivered by Park Community School. In particular, the **MUNCH** project is an area the school have gone above and beyond to meet the needs of the community.

Food poverty is a serious and increasingly common problem in our community.

For many who cannot afford to feed their children leaving them at risk of hunger and malnutrition. **MUNCH** provides a healthy breakfast and cooked lunch. This extends to Christmas day with hearty Christmas fare and entertainment and has been extended to term time with a weekly evening meal and Sunday lunch.

The **MUNCH** project also offers a real sense of community and support. Often lone parents struggling to cope, feeling quite isolated really benefit from coming to **MUNCH** and see the children entertained whilst having someone to talk to.

The value of the **MUNCH** project for our community is immeasurable providing a lifeline to many.



much
more than
just a **school**

5,832 meals provided
so far including:

1793 adults **4039** children

577 regularly attended

Children from **58**
schools and nurseries
have attended

Average daily attendance
60

20
organisations help fund

4 churches volunteer

138 people
at Christmas lunch



Comments from MUNCH users

"A huge help to those on a very limited income. Children also like to come and see any friends. A massive thank you"

Love Kath

"We love MUNCH! The food is lovely, the games etc is fantastic for the kids. It's a great way to get them out of the house and eating a healthy meal. We really enjoy and appreciate it. Thank you!"

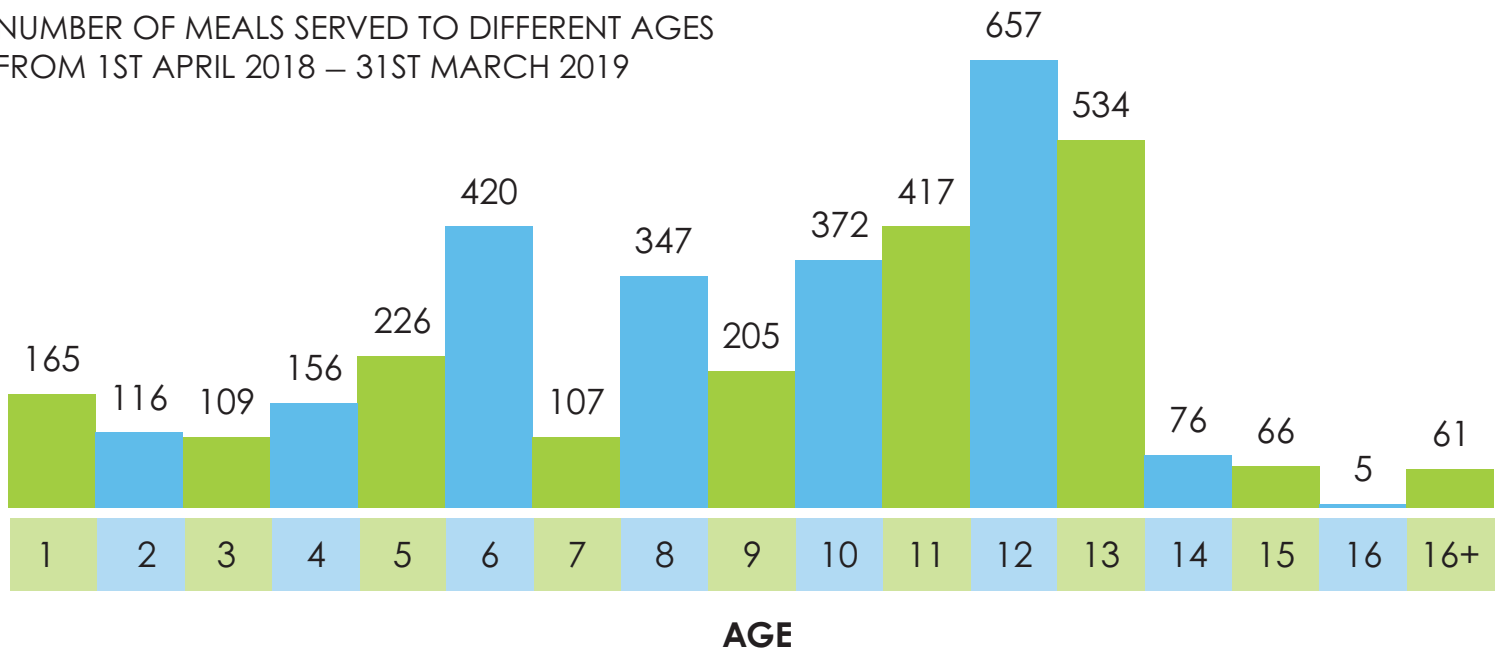
Ms Roberts

"I like every thing about MUNCH, and the fact that they do this for people."

From Olivia age 10

This graph shows the number of children attending in age each group.

NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED TO DIFFERENT AGES FROM 1ST APRIL 2018 – 31ST MARCH 2019



Christmas Day

Christmas Day at Park is very special where we open for our community to have Christmas Day lunch. This is open to everyone and a great mix of people come together from those living on their own, those in bedsits, those families who are struggling financially and those who are homeless. We are very fortunate that we have many businesses who provide bespoke presents, food and funding to make this happen. We are also fortunate with the number of volunteers who help prepare and stay for the day. This year 138 attended.



Connect 4 Summer

In January 2019, The Department of Education published an opportunity for organisations to bid for grants to fund local free holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children during 2019 Summer Holidays. We are pleased to announce that in partnership with Romsey Community School we were successful and as a result, we will be co-ordinating activities and meals in 20 venues across Hampshire. An exciting programme is being planned for children and families, including a free 2 course hot meal.



Holiday childcare, activities and healthy food for Hampshire families in receipt of Free School Meals

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