

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

The Hon. Member for Onchan, Ms Edge, to ask The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture:

How many students were choosing a) school meals and b) packed lunches at the start of
i) January 2025, ii) September 2025 and iii) October 2025.

Question W-202501-1957 published on 04/10/2025; Answer published on 18/11/2025.

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (Mrs Caine):

The attached table shows approximate lunch and packed lunch numbers for January, September and October 2025 for the primary school meals service.

Primary schools log packed lunch numbers in a variety of ways. For example, some schools deduct the number of school lunches from the number of children in attendance at school on a given day. Other schools record the number opting for a packed lunch. Therefore, the packed lunch figures are approximate and do not account for any other circumstances, for example, going home for lunch or children that have left school for appointments and team sports events.

The number of school lunches ordered daily will fluctuate in line with the individual school policy on change notice periods. Most schools allow children to change from school lunch to packed lunch without any notice.

In addition, the use of ParentPay varies across schools and therefore school meals taken may not have been logged on the reports used to extract this data. Work is ongoing to improve accuracy.

Furthermore, school meal figures fluctuate throughout a school year, for a variety of reasons, for example:

- Reception children do not typically have lunch at school during the first week of the academic year. This was reflected in the September 2025 figures.
- Authorised and unauthorised school absences e.g. sickness and appointments.
- Some schools log all children that are not having school lunch as a packed lunch which increases the packed lunch number, even if the child is going home for lunch.
- Weather changes resulting in increases and decreases in demand for each meal type.
- End of term, end of year and seasonal events such as Christmas lunch.
- Some school lunches served may not be recorded on ParentPay such as lunches provided for children that arrive late, do not have a ParentPay account or do not have funds on their account.

School Lunch and packed lunch approximate numbers for January, September and October 2025.

Primary Schools	6 th January		3 rd September		1 st October	
	School Lunch	Packed Lunch	School Lunch	Packed Lunch	School Lunch	Packed Lunch
Anagh Coar	66	29	46	35	40	52
Andreas	43	Unavailable	31	44	27	47
Arbory	117	47	95	46	79	83
Ashley Hill	147	65	123	80	110	115
Ballacottier	96	97	69	124	68	125
Ballasalla	98	50	82	79	65	97
Ballaugh	37	18	36	15	26	26
Braddan	69	58	49	58	56	51
Bunscoill Rhumsaa	251	142	213	165	203	210
Cronk y Berry	176	80	141	100	111	151
Dhoon	40	25	37	22	37	32
Foxdale	50	36	33	32	34	42
Henry Bloom Noble	236	89	220	67	187	120
Jurby	28	11	31	11	27	13
Kewaigue	59	29	57	26	49	46
Laxey	94	66	78	86	62	120
Manor Park	42	30	42	29	33	36
Marown	88	37	21	130 (kitchen closed refurbishment)	72	82
Michael	42	32	46	36	34	44
Onchan	217	115	160	160	145	181
Peel Clothworkers	251	74	250	100	184	138
Rushen	151	Unavailable	147	57	121	86
Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey	102	50	83	64	72	72
Scoill Vallajeelt	88	79	68	85	66	86
Scoill yn Jubilee (Infants and Juniors)	171	90	143	107	150	134
St. John's	62	29	44	43	41	58
St. Mary's RC	156	78	172	100	172	101
St. Thomas's C of E	34	42	35	36	36	36
Sulby	75	24	87	35	89	40
Victoria Road	79	42	84	48	72	82
Willaston	80	60	75	53	66	56