



Department of

**Education**

[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

To: Principals and Boards of Governors of  
grant-aided schools

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19 December 2016

Dear Colleague

I am writing to inform you that the sixth edition of our Food in Schools magazine, "Bite" is now available. It can be downloaded from the School Meals section of the Department's website at:

[www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/food-schools-magazine](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/food-schools-magazine)

The magazine, which is produced by the Education Authority and the Regional Food in Schools Coordinator, in conjunction with the Department, aims to keep schools up to date on recent developments in relation to school food, resources available and to provide an opportunity to share examples of how a whole school approach can improve the nutrition and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

This edition includes an article on the new Eatwell Guide which was launched earlier in the year; details of resources available to teachers; information on the new EA webpage "Find out about School Food" and a review of the Great NISCA Bake Off competition.

It also outlines the steps schools can take to access the members only Food @ my school room on Fronter. The room is an information access point to all aspects of food in schools and I would therefore encourage you and your staff to register.

We are keen to share examples of good practice and initiatives that are taking place in schools and also to receive feedback on the magazine. If you have any comments please send them to our Regional Food in Schools Coordinator, Judith Hanvey, at the e-mail address provided on page 3 of the magazine.

I would also remind schools of the importance of complying with the nutritional standards for school lunches and other food and drinks provided in schools. A number of resources are available to support schools. These include **School food: the essential guide** which provides practical advice, including case studies, on a range of nutrition issues that are likely to be encountered during the school day. The resource is available on-line at:

In addition to these resources, the Education Authority's School Catering Management Teams can provide professional support and expertise where schools require it. As well as providing school lunches they can also offer support and advice on other food in schools (e.g. breakfast clubs, after school clubs, tuck shops and vending machines) and building a whole school approach. Contact details for the EA's catering staff are attached.

I hope you enjoy reading Bite and that it helps you in adopting a whole school approach to all food provided in the school setting.

Yours sincerely

pp 

**ADAM EAKIN**  
**School Transport, Meals and EHE Team**

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