

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In light of the current cost of living crisis we are aware that some of our families circumstances may have changed and you may now be entitled to Free School Meals. Children in Reception Class, and Years 1 and 2 are already entitled to free school meals under the Government policy of Universal Free School Meals. However, gaining eligibility for Free School Meals through meeting specific criteria (as detailed below) also allows the parents of children to ask for additional support for trips and other equipment within school. Additional funding that the school receives as a result of gaining eligibility for free school meals would also enable provision for your child to be significantly enhanced.

Also, if your child moved into Year 3 in September, they will no longer be automatically entitled to free school meals.

If you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

The quickest and easiest way to apply for free school meals is online using the link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-andchildren/schools/free-school-meals>

Parents sometimes may feel there is a stigma associated with receiving free school meals. Please be reassured that as parents if you apply for FSM the school is not notified unless your daughter or son is eligible to receive them. If the application for FSM's is successful the school is then notified. This information is given only to those who process this information within the school. If you would like some help in determining whether you meet the specific criteria to apply for extra support, please contact Mrs Dutch on 01622 743 549.

Alternatively the school can apply on your behalf by completing and return this form with the information below:-

Your Name _____
Child's Name _____
Your Date of Birth _____
Your National Insurance Number _____