



Wivelsfield Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs H Smith BA Hons NPQH

7th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Free School Meals

Covid 19 continues to have an impact on the economy and many people have lost work or seen a significant reduction in their family income. Families who never dreamt they would struggle financially are not immune from this impact of the virus and the community of Wivelsfield School is no exception.

Should your family be affected, your child may be eligible for benefit related free school meals. All children in Reception and Key Stage One classes are eligible for universal free school meals, but if your child is in receipt of benefit related free school meals, you will be entitled to a weekly food parcel or vouchers to use at local supermarket throughout this time of school closure. Please note we are still seeking clarification from the DfE as to whether we will offer a food parcel or vouchers.

At the moment, once a child is in receipt of benefit related free school meals, they are also entitled to a Pupil Premium grant for six years following when you successfully applied for free school meals. This continues even if your eligibility for free school meals ends. As well as additional support with learning, if it is needed, children in receipt of pupil premium also benefit from, for example, free curriculum enrichment; subsidised individual music lessons; some free breakfast club sessions and after/before school clubs and fully funded or heavily subsidised residential trips.

Please see the criteria below for applying for free school meals, along with the link of how to apply. You need to enter your post code on the web page to be directed to the relevant local authority.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- 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



- 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)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education


If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

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

If you have any questions about applying for free school meals or need support with an application, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Keep safe and well,

Kind regards,



Helen Smith
Headteacher