

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

### **School Meals**

School hot lunches will be available from Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. School meals cost £10.50 per week and must be paid for in advance through the Parentpay online system. Your username and password will be provided by the school. **We would like parents to commit to school meals half-termly.** If you wish, you may pay weekly, monthly or half-termly in advance. **Please give 2 weeks notice if your child wishes to change to packed lunch. If you do not inform us we will continue to charge you.** Should you want your child to start school dinners please inform the office in advance and complete a diet form.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, receive a free school meal whether their parents are in receipt of benefits or not. If your child is in one of these year groups we still need you to apply for a free meal if you are receiving benefits.

### **Parentpay**

All parents need to pay for school meals, book bags (**Book bags £5.00, Messenger bags £7.00**) and future payment items online using parentpay. If you do not have a login the school will provide you with one

### **Free School Meals**

Schools get extra funding for every child registered as eligible for a free school meal if their parents receive benefits. They use this money for activities including art therapy, booster classes, Educational trips and after school clubs.

**Even if you do not want your child to receive a free meal, do not let your school miss out on this important extra funding that will benefit your child.**

**Please check your eligibility at <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/> or complete the form at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16416207/8328-free-school-meals-application-2019-20-editable-all-four-pages.pdf>**

The qualifying benefits are:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 guarantee 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

The following benefits **do not** qualify for claiming free school meals:

- Contribution-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance
- If you (or a partner) are also awarded Working Tax Credit regardless of your family's income
- Incapacity benefit and DLA.

## Additional eligibility during Covid-19 crisis

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the government are temporarily extending free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF), including:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 **who are also** subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

These groups are subject to a maximum household income threshold of £31,500 per year for London, and £28,200 for areas outside of London. See the [London/outside London](#) section if you are unsure as to which threshold would be applicable for your circumstances. These thresholds are subject to review.

The government are also temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

This group is **not** subject to any maximum household earnings threshold.

This extension is temporarily in place due to the current unique circumstances. It covers both children who are attending school and children who are at home.

See [guidance for the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups](#) for more information.

Kind Regards,

Jaishree Patel  
School Meals Administrator