



14th January 2021

Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

Dear Parents/Carers

Food vouchers during periods of school closure

Benefit related free school meals

As you may be aware, children who are entitled to free school meals and who are unable to attend school, are being provided with food vouchers during periods of school closure. We are hoping these will be made available by the government shortly and will be paid retrospectively. We want to make sure that our parents are not missing out on this entitlement, where they are in receipt of the benefits below.

Universal free school meals

Some children receive universal free school meals, because they are in Reception and Years 1 and 2. We have noticed that because of this, some parents do not make an application for free school meals, linked to their benefits. Even though these children are already entitled to and may receive Universal Free School Meals, they do not receive food vouchers during periods of school closure, if they are not in school. Please note also that the school does not receive the increased level of funding unless an application for FSM is made.

Eligible benefits

- 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)
- For more information visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/supportforschools/services-and-contacts/free-school-meals>.

How can I apply?

The quickest and simplest way to apply is via the Devon County Council Citizen Portal.

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live

Please let the school know as soon as possible if you are advised you are now eligible.

If I am eligible, what does this mean for me?

If your application proves successful your child(ren) will be entitled to a cooked free school meal every day, whilst in school, until your circumstances change.

If I am eligible, what does this mean for my child's school?

If your application proves successful, the school will receive an increased level of funding for your child.

If you require any further information, please contact the school via email to orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk

With kind regards.

Fiona Pearce, Headteacher