



Heron Hill Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L Middleton
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Wilkinson

20th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Free School Meals

We think there may be some families who could be eligible for Free School Meals but have not applied for a range of reasons. Access to Free School Meals funding could make a big difference to your child's future as the school can provide access to additional support (where appropriate); funded school visits, activities and resources; subsidised music lessons and school uniform. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals also receive a voucher for a supermarket of their choice in the school holidays. This was for £110.00 in the summer holidays.

The application process is quick and easy and you can apply online at [Free school meals and clothing vouchers | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) The process is completely confidential and you will receive an immediate response advising whether you are eligible or not. Alternatively, if you are unable to apply online please contact the free school meals team – telephone 0300 373 3300).

The criteria for Free School Meals is:

To be eligible for free school meals, your family's annual household income must be no higher than:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with one child
- £26,300 for families outside of London with two or more children

This includes any wider income or support you may be getting and any earnings from employment.

You must also have less than £16,000 in savings, including any shares, investments and bank accounts - but not including your home.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive 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 Also your annual gross income is 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 your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- children who get these benefits paid to them, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also claim free school meals.

When not to apply

If you receive working tax credits you may not be eligible for free school meals or clothing grants.



Pupil Premium Grant

Children who fall under the following categories:

- who are in the care of the Local Authority (children looked after 'CAL')
- who have been adopted since 2005
- with a parent currently serving in the armed services or whose parents have left the service since April 2018

Will not be eligible for Free School Meals, but will be eligible for Pupil Premium. This means they will receive some of the same discounts for trips, music lessons, uniform and after school clubs. Therefore, it is really important that you contact the school if your child has been adopted or has a parent either currently serving in the armed services or has left the service since April 2018, so we can make sure that your child is receiving all the benefits they are entitled to.

Once you have applied and been successful in claiming Free School Meals or Pupil Premium, you do not need to reapply until your child leaves primary school. Even if your circumstances change, and you no longer fit the eligibility criteria, you will still receive the benefits until your child leaves primary school.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible or require further assistance with your application, please do contact Mrs Harte, School Business Manager, in the school office for further information and support (all enquiries will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially).

Yours sincerely



Lucy Middleton
Headteacher