

Whiteshill Primary School

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Dear Parents,

All children in England are entitled to universal free school meals up until the end of year 2. You do not have to apply for these in any way, they will just be available from the first day your children are in school for lunch in week 2. They may of course bring a packed lunch if you would prefer, however we do often find that they will happily eat meals in school they do not always try at home so often it is worth giving them a try even with a fussier eater.

There is also a government scheme which provides children with free school meals beyond year 2, right through their time in school, if you as a family are in receipt of the following you may be able to access this:

- 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 beyond year 2.

If you are in receipt of any of the above, or if your child is a child in care or has left local authority care as a result of: adoption, a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order, or if either parent is serving in the regular armed forces, the school are also entitled to extra **funding known as 'Pupil Premium'**. This funding is used to support your child in many ways throughout their time in school. It can be used to put in place whole school systems to improve teaching and learning and can also be used to support you with payment for trips, music lessons etc. if this is appropriate. This is a huge help to the school, so please do follow the link below if you think you might be eligible.

So, if you think that any of the above applies to your child, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> and enter your postcode. This will then take you to the Gloucestershire website, where you can make an application with just your National Insurance number and a current email address. You will receive an instant response as to whether you are entitled to free school meals and therefore the 'pupil premium' funding, once you have submitted your claim.

As always, if you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards

Heather Francis
Headteacher