



Dear Parents and Carers,

If your child is eligible for free school meals, please register now to ensure your child does not miss out.

### Reasons for registering

- Your child will have access to a varied menu, providing nutritious food and it represents a saving of over £400 per year
- In addition, the school receives an extra payment from the government

Please register, even if your child is currently entitled to Universal Free School Meals (i.e. in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2), as the school only receives funding from the government for each child registered for Free School Meals.

### Does my child have to eat a school meal if I register?

While it is recommended your child eats a school meal, due to the nutritional value it provides, this is optional – we would ask though that you register regardless of whether or not they want a meal so we can receive this funding.

### What is the Pupil Premium?

We will receive £1385 for every child registered for Free School Meals from the Government, providing us with a very important boost to school funds. This will allow us to provide extra support such as extra tuition or teaching assistants. If you register this year then we will receive the Pupil Premium next year.

### How will this benefit my child?

Although the school as a whole will benefit from receiving this extra funding, we will use this funding to provide targeted support and provision to individual children who we know will benefit from additional provision.

### How do I know if I qualify?

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 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

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- 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 (which accounts for £616.67 per month -after tax and not including any benefits you get which accounts).

Additionally, families with no recourse to public funds are now eligible to claim for free school meals subject to maximum income thresholds.

***No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.***

#### **How do I apply?**

This will take you to the homepage for Gloucestershire County Council, where you will be able to click the link to register online.

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

You will receive an instant response as to whether you are entitled to Free School Meals once you have submitted your claim. If unsuccessful, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still receive Universal Infant Free School Meals.

If you do not have access to the internet or you need any confidential advice or have any questions, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Moss  
Head teacher

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