



Meeting Individual Needs

25 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - FREE SCHOOL MEALS

During this difficult time, we understand that many of our family's circumstances may have changed. This could mean that more of our children are now eligible for **benefit related** free school meals.

As well as their free lunchtime meal in school, children in receipt of benefit related free school meals can receive the following support:

Winter Grant Scheme

Telford & Wrekin council are awarding all free school meal children a **£30.00** food voucher to be used for children's lunches over the Christmas period. The vouchers are being emailed directly by the council before the end of term. Please let us know of any changes to your email addresses.

Coronavirus Isolation Absences

Help with lunches during term time if your child is having to isolate at home due to Coronavirus.

Breakfast Parcel Project

Telford & Wrekin Council fund breakfast parcels to local children who receive free school meals in term time and during the holidays. These parcels help many children with a great start to the day by giving youngsters' bodies and brains the food they need to develop, learn and play.

For more information on the breakfast parcel project or to find out how to apply for a parcel, visit www.telford.gov.uk/breakfast

We would urge all families to take a look at the free school meal eligibility criteria enclosed to see if you could claim

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Gill Knox (Mrs)
Headteacher

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your child, or children, may qualify for Free School Meals if you meet the following criteria:

- you or your partner have a child for whom you receive [Child Benefit](#) and who is attending a school or college in Telford and Wrekin

and you get any of the following:

- [Income Support](#)
- [Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- [Income-related Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you're not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#) and have an annual income gross income of no more than £16,190)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- [Pension Credit](#) (guaranteed credit)
- [Universal Credit](#) and your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

For every child receiving free school meals their school receives more money.

Each school receives a weekly register showing the names of all children who are entitled to Free School Meals.

Should your circumstances change, for example you start work, increase your working hours to more than 16 a week, or cease being entitled to Income Support or Job Seeker's Allowance, you must notify Telford & Wrekin Council immediately.

Each school has the right to ask you to repay the value of any school meals that your child has been given for free, if they were not entitled to those meals.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the current phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

HOW TO APPLY

If you make an application for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Support, the application form you complete allows you to also apply for free school meals or the Pupil Premium at the same time. If you do not claim either Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support or wish to make a separate claim for Free School Meals or the Pupil Premium, you will need to complete a separate application form.

You can apply for Free School Meals online by visiting
www.telford.gov.uk/FSM