



Dear Parents/Carers

You may have heard in the media the outcry regarding cuts to school budgets and the detrimental effect that this is having on schools.

Like many schools, we are challenged in making a budget, which is now in to the tenth 'flat year' of allocation, and to resource our school to ensure the very best outcomes for our children.

Are you in receipt of any of the following?

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

Your child must attend a maintained school (most schools in Kent are maintained schools) or receive alternative education approved by Kent County Council.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- 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)
- 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.

If your child is eligible for free school meals with an active application on the 31 March 2018, they will remain eligible until 31 March 2023.

We may ask for proof of benefit after you apply.

If so, please make an application for free school meals on line, following this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>.

You are entitled to do this for **every** child that you have attending school and we encourage parents to do so. Applications should also be made for children in all year groups, even though we appreciate that the Universal Free School Meals initiative provides free school meals for children in Robins and Blackbirds.

Such applications assist us at school by providing additional funds that can specifically be spent on your child. This could be discreetly to support school trips, after school clubs, residential visits. The process is completely confidential and is maintained as so.

If you would like to speak to me in confidence about this, or like some assistance in completing the application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support and assistance in providing the very best for your child

Yours sincerely

T.A. Jerome

Mrs T Jerome, Headteacher

