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22nd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Funding to support families eligible for free school meals

Following the announcement by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, on 16 February 2021, I am writing to notify you of arrangements to support families eligible for free school meals from 22 February 2021:

Primary 1-3 pupils

- All pupils will receive universal free meals (P1-3) at school. Any statutory free school meal payments will cease for those who received it.

Primary 4-7 pupils

- Pupils in Primary 4-7 where the family is eligible for free school meals will continue to receive payment for a three-week period from 22 February to 14 March 2021. The payment of £52.50 per child, is comprised by 3 weeks free school meals entitlement at £12.50 per week and £5 per week breakfast money.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible families already in receipt of free school meals, do not have to apply for this funding. If you have recently applied for income based free school meals, please be assured that we are dealing with all applications as quickly as possible and we will contact you direct when your application has been processed.

Families who are on a low income but not currently in receipt of free school meals can check entitlement by completing the following online form: [Check entitlement and apply for free school meals](#) .

The current eligibility criteria are as follows but is included in the entitlement checker mentioned above.

Children are eligible for free school meals if their parents (or carers) are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The qualifying benefits and allowances are:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £7,330
- Support under Part VI of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Universal Credit with a monthly take home pay of less than £610

If you are aged 16-18 years-old and receive any of the above qualifying benefits in your own right, you can apply for free school meals.

For more information please visit: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/assistance/free-school-meals/>

Any future arrangements beyond 14 March 2021 in relation to direct payments of free school meals and the £100 Covid Spring Hardship Payment for low-income families will be made available to you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Mr Adrian Anderson
Head Teacher