



Montpelier Primary School
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Information with regard to Free School Meals

During these challenging times, the Government wants to ensure that **pupils eligible for free school meals** can continue to access support if they are not in school.

Who is entitled to Free School Meals?

This is where it can be confusing for some parents as all children from Foundation through to Year 2 inclusive are entitled to **universal free school meals when they are in school (UFSM)**. However, this is different to those able to claim for **benefit-based 'Free School Meals'**. It is **benefit based 'Free School Meals'** that the government is referring to in publications and announcements.

If you are in receipt of the following support payments, your child will be entitled to receive benefit-based free school meals:

- *Universal Credit – from 1 April 2018 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods*
- *Income Support (IS)*
- *Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)*

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals.

How can I claim for benefit- based Free School Meals?

We are aware that financial circumstances may be changing for families and you may now need to be able to claim.

If you think you might be entitled to benefit-based 'Free School Meals' then please visit the Plymouth City Council

website <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolseducationchildcareskillsandemployability/catered/freeschoolmeals>.

We would encourage everyone to register for free school meals if you think you may be entitled under any of the following benefits (even if your child is aged 4 to 7 and would qualify for a UFSM) as currently you will also be able to claim food vouchers for the holiday period. The school will also be able to claim much needed and valuable funding for every pupil and student registered on the school roll. Currently that figure is £1,300 per pupil per year. This is called the Pupil Premium.

What is our current provision at Montpelier?

At present, the Government are asking schools to provide meals or food parcels through their local food provider whilst we await for the National Food Vouchers system to be re-introduced.

At Montpelier, we are currently able to provide pupils that are eligible for benefit free school meals, who are not in school, with a 'Food Parcel' that can be picked up every Wednesday. If for some reason you have not been contacted regarding a food parcel, and are entitled to this, could you email admin@mpsplymouth.net so that we can arrange this for you.

Once we have further information on the food voucher system we will contact you again to organise this.