

18th March 2021



SARUM
ACADEMY

Dear Parents

Re: Free School Meals

We are aware that during the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a change of circumstances for many families. Some of these may mean that your child is now eligible for Free School Meals, and if this is the case for you then I would really encourage you to register for this for two reasons.

Firstly, it would mean that your child will get a free, nutritious meal every day. The money automatically gets uploaded to their cashless card each day. Secondly, there is additional funding provided for all students receiving Free School Meals which we use for additional classroom resources and staffing as well as discounts for activities week.

How does it work?

First, check if you qualify; you can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Please note, **if you are receiving Working Tax Credit your child is not entitled to free school meals, regardless of your income.**

Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, simply visit the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals and click on “Apply for free school meals”. Alternatively, at your request, we can send you a paper copy of the form which you can return directly to Wiltshire Council or bring to the Academy and we will forward it to them on your behalf.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal whilst saving you more than £350.00 a year. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal, but as long as you qualify and are registered, the Academy will still receive the extra funding. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

If you have any questions about claiming free school meals please email mark.ramage@sarumacademy.org

Yours sincerely

Miss M Fox
Head of Pupil Development and Wellbeing

Sarum Academy Westwood Road Salisbury Wiltshire SP2 9HS
Tel: 01722 323431 **Email:** enquiries@sarumacademy.org **Website:** www.sarumacademy.org