



Montpelier Primary School
North Down Rd, Beacon Park, Plymouth, PL2 3HN
Tel: 01752 216160
e-mail: admin@mpsplymouth.net
Web site: www.montpelierprimary.co.uk



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.

In the first instance, the Government are encouraging schools to provide meals or food parcels through their current food provider. If this is not possible, schools can provide supermarket or shop vouchers to eligible families.

What are we currently doing at Montpelier?

At Montpelier, we are currently able to provide pupils that are eligible for free school meals with a 'Grab Bag' packed lunch that can be picked up from school every day or delivered locally by staff if families are unable to pick it up because they are self-isolating. Our food provider, CaterEd, has been very happy to support the school with this over the Easter break.

For families, eligible for free school meals, that are living away from the immediate locality but living in Plymouth, we have made arrangement to pick up a 'Grab Bags' from the nearest school that our catering company works with.

For the very few families eligible for free school meals who are living out of the Plymouth area, (who our food provider cannot support) the school has looked to providing food vouchers.

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**, 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 recent publications.

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 UIFSM) as 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.

How are we reviewing our current provision following the announcement of national Free School Meal voucher?

For those families who are already eligible for benefit based FSM; we will be contacting you in the following week with regard to our next plan for Free School Meal Provision.