

11/09/2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may have seen and heard in the news/radio/social media, school budgets have been stretched by rising costs and inflation in the same way many of our household bills have been impacted.

Along with you, we do not want to see our academy suffer in anyway with these increases. One way we can recoup some of the money for our children is for parents/carers, if eligible, to claim Free School Meals. We are given £1455 per child per year to go back into the school budget to ensure that we are giving the children the best education that is needed.

In Early Years and Key stage 1 classes, every child is entitled to a free meal this is called Universal Meals, which every child is entitled to in England. However, if you are in receipt of any of the following we urge you still to apply for us to receive this benefit:

- 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
- 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)

If you are eligible your child will receive one free academy sweatshirt per year (order form will follow in due course), 50% reduction on academy trips and one free breakfast club place per week space providing.

To apply on line please go to East Sussex County Council website for the Free School Meals Department.

[Free school meals | East Sussex County Council](#)

We cannot process any applications at the academy.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Silverdale Team