



FLASH LEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Did you know that if your child is entitled to free school meals, you are entitled to claim for a £20.00 e-voucher. These are education support fund vouchers and are typically supermarket vouchers for free school meal (FSM) eligible pupils, provided through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 's Household Support Fund. These funds are distributed by local councils to help low-income families with food costs during school holidays. To receive them, your child must be eligible for benefits-related free school meals – link to apply is at the end of this letter.

Each child you claim for, you will receive 1 x £20.00 eVoucher for a week. The next available week is October half term. The eVouchers are sent via email to each child's family.

This fund is seeking to provide families of children who meet the eligibility criteria listed below:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4-week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

As you are aware, if you have an infant age child (those in Reception, year 1 or year 2) they can receive free school meals even if you don't meet the entitlement criteria listed above and without completing our application form. **However, for every pupil registered with the council as eligible under the entitlement criteria, the school will receive additional funding called Pupil Premium which is used to help raise achievement levels.**



So that schools (and pupils) can continue to benefit from this extra funding, it is important that parents who do meet the criteria above register their claim with the council.

Please click the link below and this will take you directly to the site in order for you to start your claim

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

IF YOU NEED HELP IN COMPLETING THE FORM, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AND WE CAN ARRANGE A TIME FOR YOU TO POP IN AND WE CAN ASSIST YOU.