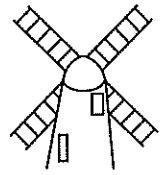


Barnham Primary School



Headteacher: Mr James Everett

Successful Learners

Confident Individuals

Responsible Citizens

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility under Universal Credit

The eligibility criteria for free school meals has changed. This letter explains the changes and how they might affect you and gives information on whether you may be entitled to claim a meal.

What are the new eligibility criteria?

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents/carers receive any of the benefits below.

- Universal Credit, provided they have annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC.
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

I don't currently claim free school meals – what does this mean for me?

Please contact the School Office for an application form and return the completed document to the School Office for processing. If you are eligible, your school will be notified. Your child will receive free school meals and the school will receive extra funding.

I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end March 2022. Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e primary or secondary.

Where can I get more information?

If you need any further information, please speak to a member of school staff. You can also visit the free school meal website: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Kind regards

Nicky Schofield
School Business Manager

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