Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Norfolk County Council is extending the scheme for food vouchers for children in receipt of free school meals from April 2025 to March 2026. This is reflective of the recent government announcement.

Vouchers are issued monthly direct to families and for the whole year total £240 per pupil.

Therefore, we would like to remind all our families that they may be eligible for free school meals for their child if in receipt of certain benefits. Please find below more information:

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get free school meals if they go to school. This is called universal infant free school meals. This is different to benefit-related free school meals and you do not have to apply, **but if you receive one of the benefits listed below, you should still register**. This is because it can help raise extra funds for your child's school (called Pupil Premium). This Government funding can help with extra tuition, teaching and after school activities.

If your child is in Year 3 or above, you must receive one of the qualifying benefits listed to get benefit-related free school meals.

If your child is attending a nursery school, they must be in a maintained school nursery as a registered pupil at the school, your child must be in receipt of education before and after lunch on the same day and you must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit to be entitled.

The qualifying benefits are:

- Universal Credit - with an annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax
- 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190

If you are unsure, please submit a claim, either on line at https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/38166 or ask the school office for an application form.

In addition to receiving monthly food vouchers, including school holiday periods, registering for free meals also means the school receives extra funding for valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities