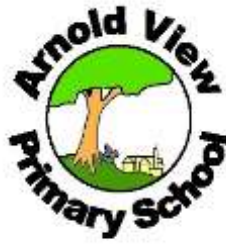


# Arnold View Primary School



**Aspire Believe Achieve**

Head Teacher Mrs Caroline Otterburn  
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11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Free School Meals Explained!**

I hope that this letter finds you well. As we begin another school year, I wanted to bring to your attention an important opportunity that could benefit your child and our school community.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal (often referred to as UFSM).

If you are in receipt of certain benefits you may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). The difference is that if you are entitled to FSM there are other means of support that you can tap into. Once you are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals your child's school will receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) to help and support you through your child's education. The school will also receive extra support to deliver a fully inclusive and accessible education for all of our pupils.

You can apply for Free School Meals at any time while your child is at school.

### **For example:**

If you apply and are entitled to Free School Meals in Reception class the funding is there to support you for your child's entire time at primary school. If you become eligible in Year 5 then the Pupil Premium funding goes with you into secondary school.

### **How can Pupil Premium funding help me?**

Pupil Premium funding is used at the school's discretion to support children, each situation is assessed individually but examples of the support available are listed below:

- Help with before and after school childcare
- Support with payment for trips if receiving FSM
- Help with school uniform
- Music lessons subsidy
- Before and after school sports and activities
- Additional tuition
- Holiday clubs
- Counselling support and play therapy

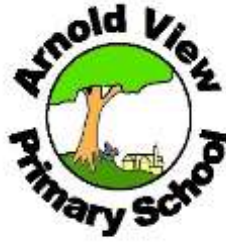
### **Is my child eligible?**

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the qualifying benefits below:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earning from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- [Income Support](#)
- [Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance \(JSA\)](#)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit



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- 
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
  - [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals in accordance with the above criteria and your child is also receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals, **please still apply**. This will enable your child's school to claim valuable 'pupil premium' funding.

If either parent works within the armed forces or if a child is looked after from care they may also be eligible for benefits. Documentation will need to be provided in these instances.

## How do I apply?

If you believe your child may be eligible, I strongly encourage you to fill out an application form, which can be obtained by phoning Nottingham County Council on 0300 500 80 80 or filling out the application at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

To apply, you will need to register and provide:

- your **National Insurance Number** or **National Asylum Support Service Reference Number**
- your **last name**
- your **date of birth**

If your entitlement to free school meals cannot be assessed through the eligibility checking system, the council will let you know. If you think you are eligible to the benefits listed you can provide more details for a manual assessment.

If your child comes under any of the categories below you might also be entitled to Pupil Premium support:

- Children of those employed in the Armed Services
- Children adopted from care

Please get in touch with Nottinghamshire County Council to find out how to apply and what support is offered.

It is important to note that if your child qualifies for Pupil Premium, it does not mean that they have to have free school meals (even though they are absolutely delicious), however your registration ensures that the school can access the funding that can be used to improve your child's education and school experience.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to contact our school office - we are here to help.

Together, we can make a difference in your child's education.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Caroline Otterburn  
Head Teacher

