

Free School Meals

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new Academic year at Kingsdown School.

As the current financial situation may be leaving families struggling with their daily budgets, we would like to make you aware of the Free School Meals system that is available for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed below.

A daily allocation is added to your child's Biometric account and your child can spend to the daily limit on a variety of foods across the school's catering outlets, although due to the current COVID situation this is currently a choice of pasta or sandwiches with a dessert ordered in advance on a weekly basis by parents and delivered to the student in their zone.

You can apply for free school meals if you or your child receives any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seekers 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 are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your household annual income is less than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (provided your household annual income is less than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get)

To apply for Free School Meals, please **Ctrl+Click** on the following link:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/xfp/form/754>

(You will need to provide either your National Insurance number or National Asylum Support Service reference number to complete the form)

Swindon Borough Council will process your application within five school days. However, if you've recently applied for Universal Credit, they can only process your application once your benefit claim has been confirmed by the Department for Work and Pensions. This can take up to six weeks.

If you have a change in circumstances -

A change in your or your child's circumstances may affect your right to claim free school meals. You should inform Swindon Borough Council if:

- you or your child no longer receive any of the benefits listed above
- your child leaves school
- your family moves out of the Borough
- your child is absent from school for a long time

To let the Borough know about a change in circumstances, please email:

schoollunches@swindon.gov.uk.

If you would like help with your online application, please telephone the Main Office at Kingsdown on 01793 822284 and we will be pleased to assist you.