



eastbury
primary
school

Thursday, 29 March 2018

Dear parent/carer,

Change to ParentPay arrangements for school dinners

This is to let you know that we are making an important change to the way in which you pay for school dinners. From 1 May 2018 all payments will need to be made on the ParentPay website in advance. The school office will no longer accept cash payments for school dinners. This brings Eastbury in line with the arrangements operated by many other primary and secondary schools.

If you currently owe money for school dinners, this will need to be settled in advance of 1 May or your child will no longer be served with a school dinner.

This change only affects children in Key Stage 2 who are not eligible for free school meals. If you feel that your child may be eligible for a free school meal, please check the eligibility criteria overleaf. If you are uncertain or would like further advice, please ask in the school office.

Key Stage 1 children will continue to receive free school meals.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in making this change a success.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Shepherd / Joseph Wilson

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Who is eligible for free school meals?

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

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition, the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals as follows:

- From 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants will continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time.
- In addition, any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period.
- Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

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