



19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We are very aware that the last few months have been challenging for families and may have led to a change in circumstances. It is important to us that we sign post and support the families of our students to access all and any support to which they might be entitled. Therefore we want to share with you the criteria that means your child might be eligible for free school meals, especially since the government has announced that the vouchers related to these will now be available over the summer holidays.

If you are now in receipt of any of the following, then you may well be eligible for the scheme:

- 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 guaranteed 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 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you applied on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

This could mean that you will get a £15 shopping voucher each week for each child at school from when you register until the start of term in September. These vouchers are supplied to you electronically and can be used in any supermarket. Also, on return to school in the autumn term your child will be able to have a free meal at lunchtime at school regardless of their year group.

We would also like to make parents aware that each child registered for free school meals also brings additional funding to the child's school for 6 years even if the student stops being eligible for the lunches when their family is no longer in receipt of the payments which qualified them initially. So even if this is a short term provision at home, it can bring longer term benefits for your child in school.

## LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER



*If you would like us to explore this for you, please call the school office. You will be asked to share your National Insurance number to check eligibility and then we can register you for the scheme. We would encourage all families to take this opportunity to register, especially if you have a child in Reception to Year 2 and have not needed to formally register to get the meals to date.*

*If you want to look into this further at home, you can find more information at:*

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

*Alternatively, if you have any queries about the scheme, please do get in touch.*

*Yours sincerely,*



*Iain Sutherland*

*Head Teacher*



*Geraldine Curry*

*Inclusion Manager*

[gcurry@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:gcurry@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk)

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