

Ryhope Infant School Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs T Allen

24th November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

IMPORTANT FREE SCHOOL MEAL INFORMATION

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food plays a key role in promoting and supporting healthy eating and lifestyles, establishing healthy habits for life. It enables children to try a wider range of foods, as well as give them the fuel they need for an afternoon of focused and high-quality learning.

The government is continuing to provide all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to a healthy Universal Infant Free School Meal. However, this is not the same as Benefits Related Free School Meals.

During the recent lock down period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, families who were entitled to Benefits Related Free School Meals were supplied with a £15 weekly shopping voucher per child, to help towards food costs. This support was invaluable to families during this really difficult period, especially for those who had found themselves with a sudden reduction in income. Families, who were only entitled to the Universal Infant Free School Meals, were not entitled to this additional help.

We are therefore encouraging all of our families to still apply for Benefits Related Free School Meals, as today we have been made aware of the Local Authority's intention to issue weekly £15 vouchers over the Christmas break.

Families may be eligible for benefits related free school meals if you claim any of the following benefits:

- 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 - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Registering for free meals could also raise additional funding for the Academy of up to £1,320 per child. This funding is really important to us as it helps support your child's education and ensure that they reach their full potential.

Ryhope Infant School Academy is an exempt charity. It is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales under company registration number 09161532, Registered Office Address is the address above.



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To check if your child is eligible, applications can be made via the Sunderland Family Portal:
<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/families/free-school-meals>

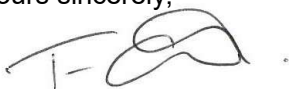
To complete the online application, you will need to provide:

- Your own name and date of birth
- Contact details
- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Seekers Number
- Child's name and date of birth

If you have any questions relating to the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs T Allen
Headteacher

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