



Rye Community Primary School & Pugwash Nursery
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7ND
www.ryeprimary.co.uk



01797 222825
office@ryeprimary.co.uk
15th June 2021

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of School: Miss Kelly Martin

01797 228695
pugwash@ryeprimary.co.uk

RE: Free school meals (FSM) eligibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today to remind you that if you register your child for Free School Meals, regardless of whether you want your child to eat a hot meal each day, instead of a packed lunch, the school will still receive money from the Government in support of the school.

Please continue to read on to see how by completing one simple eligibility form, you can support your child and many other children in our school.

Did you know...

Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?

Register now to make sure we don't miss out

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

For every child registered, Rye Primary receives £1,345 each year.

For looked-after children and those previously looked-after, we receive £2,345.

For children recorded as 'service children' or receiving a pension from the Ministry of Defence, we receive £310.

With this money we could improve teaching facilities and equipment, provide assistance with paying for school trips and also provide assistance with buying school uniform.

Please register now to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the 'Do you qualify?' section below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, please complete the form attached to this letter and/or contact Reception at Rye Community Primary who will help you register. office@ryeprimary.co.uk
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400.00 a year).
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still receives the Pupil Premium.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Please talk to us about registering your child today if you have further questions.

Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these 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);



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- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit;
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (£616.67 per month- after tax and not including any benefits you get).
- Children can also register for the Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

Come and talk to us if you're not sure.

If you are not in receipt of Free School Meals now, but have been anytime in the last 6 years, please let the Office know as we will still benefit from this extra funding.

Universal infant FSM (UIFSM)

Your child is eligible for UIFSM if they are in a government funded school (which we are) and in either Reception class, Year 1 or Year 2. If you also get any of the qualifying benefits above, **you should still tell us** or the LA, as we receive additional funding for this.

I don't claim any FSM

Registering your child not only provides free healthy meals every lunchtime, it raises an additional **£1,345** for the school from the government. This money is used by the school to offer pupils invaluable additional support.

To check whether your child is eligible, as requested, **please complete the attached form**

or **complete online** at <https://eyeeonline.eastsussex.gov.uk/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

Alternatively, you can search <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> to check whether your child can claim FSM, and then apply on the Local Authority's website.

You can apply at any time, and we will contact you with more information once your application has been accepted.

If you need any help at all then please contact the school office on office@ryeprimary.co.uk or via telephone on **01797 222825**.

If you are eligible, your child/children will receive FSM and the school will receive additional funding.

I already receive FSM

If you currently receive FSM, your child will continue to receive them until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period (expected March 2023).

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will continue to receive FSM until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.

Thank you for your support and for helping to make sure the school receives as much funding as possible to give every pupil the support and education they deserve.

Kind regards,

Miss Kelly Martin

Head of School