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14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **COVID-19 : Changes to Free School Meal Entitlement**

We are conscious that there have been many changes for parents/carers recently, and it is likely that some families who have not previously identified as being eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), are now entitled to receive them.

If you have a child in KS1 who normally gets a meal as part of the universal infant FSM scheme, but would be eligible for Free School Meals from year 3 onwards, then please contact the Pupil Access Team to register (details on page2).

Alternatively, if your employment status has recently changed and you are now in receipt of benefits, then you may be entitled to claim FSM.

During this period of school closure, you would receive a supermarket voucher (eg: Tesco, Asda or Morrisons), to the value of £15 per week for each eligible child.

If you are confirmed as being eligible, then it could take as little as 48 hours for school to be notified and for us to be able to include you in the scheme.

### **How do I know if my child is eligible for FSM?**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work
- <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=1>

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## How do I register for FSM?

**By telephone:** You can ring your local area education office. It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings.

You will need to provide your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- National insurance number

You will be informed whether you are entitled over the telephone.

**Contact details:** East Area Education Office  
Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale  
Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Closed for bank holidays.

Tel: 01254 220 747

**Email:** [pupil.accesseast@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:pupil.accesseast@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Online:** Please visit the following link:

[https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_pupil\\_premium](https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium)

You will receive confirmation as to whether you are eligible by email, within 5 working days.

If you are eligible and register, please let a member of our team know by contacting the school office by telephone, or email [office@theviewtrust.org](mailto:office@theviewtrust.org). We will then check for it on the eligibility list that is updated daily by Lancashire County Council.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns then do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, stay home, stay safe and protect the NHS.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L A Parrish  
Headteacher