



Bernards Heath Junior School

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SK/PH

Dear Parent/Carer,

APPLYING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

You will know that since September 2014 all infant age children have been entitled to receive universal free school meals. This was a flagship policy of the previous coalition government.

The policy of universal **free school meals does not apply to junior age children** (according to current available information).

Therefore, if you would like your child to have school lunches, provided by Hertfordshire Catering Ltd. (HCL), there will be a cost. The cost for school meals from **September 2022 is £2.85 per meal or £14.25 a week, payable in advance.**

You may be entitled to apply for Free Schools Meals (FSM) if any of the following apply:

- **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** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** a year after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until March 2023, or until they finish their current phase of schooling (primary or secondary), if that's after March 2023

For every child registered for free school meals the school receives some additional funding called The Pupil Premium. If you don't want your child to have free school meals they can bring a packed lunch as usual, as long as you qualify and are registered, the school gets the additional funding.

If you qualify and are registered you will be entitled to part remission of individual music tuition fees. In addition, the school may be able to help with the cost of trips, swimming lessons and the Year 6 residential school journey. The school is unlikely to be able to help with these costs if your child is not registered for free school meals.

Apply on-line www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Yours sincerely,

Sian Kilpatrick (Headteacher)