

Our Ref: AMDM/SK
Your Ref:

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To: Parents/Carers

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Dear Parents/Carers

Direct Payment of Free School Meals for Easter Holidays

I am writing to confirm that all pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals will receive a payment of £25.00 for the period 4 April 2022 to 15 April 2022. This payment is comprised of two weeks free school meals at £12.50 per week.

Eligible families already in receipt of free school meals, do not have to apply for this payment. Payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account by **1 April 2022**.

Scottish Child Bridging Payment – Spring Payment

All pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals, will also receive a [Scottish Child Bridging Payment](#) of £130.00. Eligible families already in receipt of free school meals do not have to apply for this funding and payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account by **1 April 2022**.

Pre-school age child in funded early learning and childcare settings

Pre-school age children are not entitled to free school meals and, in accordance with the Scottish Government criteria, are not entitled to the [Scottish Child Bridging Payment](#). This is because the Scottish Child Payment is now available. If you have not already done so you can apply for the [Scottish Child Payment on mygov.scot](#).

I have recently applied for Free School Meals, but I've not been notified of the outcome

If you have recently applied for income based free school meals, please be assured that we are dealing with all applications as quickly as possible, and we will contact you direct when your application has been processed.

Families who are on a low income but not currently in receipt of free school meals can check entitlement by completing the following online form:

[Check entitlement and apply for free school meals](#)

Children are eligible for free school meals if their parents (or carers) are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The current qualifying benefits and allowances are:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £7,500
- Support under Part VI of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Universal Credit with a monthly take home pay of less than £625
(the qualifying benefits and allowances are subject to change)

If you are aged 16-18 years-old and receive any of the above qualifying benefits in your own right, you can apply for free school meals.

Future Payments 2022/2023

Three further payments of £130 will be made at Summer, October and Christmas along with direct payment of free school meals. The payments will be made in line with the start of the school holidays. Further information will be provided in advance of the payment dates.

For more information please visit: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/assistance/free-school-meals/>

Yours sincerely



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