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Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Direct Payment of Free School Meals for Mid-term Break and other 'Occasional Days'

All pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals will shortly receive a payment of £10.00 to cover the mid-term break holiday. This consists of one payment of £2.50 for 13 February and three additional payments for other occasional days throughout the school year. Occasional days are determined locally across each cluster of secondary school and associated primaries.

Please note that statutory free school meals are awarded to parents/carers based on their income circumstances. The mid-term break holiday payment does not apply to children in Primary 1 to 5 who are entitled to universal free school meals, which are not income based.

Do I need to apply for this funding and when will I receive payment?

Eligible families already in receipt of statutory free school meals, do not have to apply for this payment. Payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account by **10 February 2023**.

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 £17,005

- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £7,920
- Support under Part VI of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Universal Credit with a monthly net pay from your employer of less than £660 (this is based on your actual net pay, not the figure used by Universal Credit)
(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.

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

Further information on the new Scottish Child Payment from Social Security Scotland can also be found at www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment.

Yours faithfully



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