

Our Ref: AMDM/SK
Your Ref:

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To: Parents/Carers

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Dear Parents/Carers

UPDATE ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CHILD BRIDGING PAYMENTS

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 17 October 2022 to 28 October 2022. This payment is comprised of 2 weeks free school meals at £12.50 per week. Please note – statutory free school meals are awarded to parents/carers based on their income circumstances. The October 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.

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 **14 October 2022**.

Scottish Child Bridging Payment – October 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 **14 October 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](https://www.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 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.

Future Payments 2022/2023

One further child bridging payment of £130 will be made in December along with direct payment of free school meals. The payment 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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