Dear Parent/Carer

**Extended Free School Meals**

I hope that you are safe and well in these difficult times. We have received confirmation that Local Authorities are temporarily extending free school meals to children of some groups during the COVID-19 outbreak.

I have attached the information and if you fall within the new categories you can get an application form by email mail@foxford.coventry.sch.uk.

**Changes in circumstances**

Parents and carers are encouraged to apply for free school meals as this can help their child’s school to attract additional ‘pupil premium ‘funding to support learning.

If your circumstances have change you are able to apply for Free School Meals online by visiting; <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/54/benefits/168/free_school_meals/2>

Free school meals are available to children of families who are in receipt of:

* Income Support
* Jobseekers Allowance (income based)
* Employment and Support Allowance (income based)
* Guarantee Credit (the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit)
* Universal Credit (UC)
* Until 1 April 2018, all UC claims were eligible for free school meals, however,
* From 1 April 2018, UC claims will only be eligible for free school meals if the total net **earned** income is under £7,400 per year OR if the child was eligible for a free school meal on 01/04/18
* Where the child was eligible for a free school meal on 01 April 2018, they will remain entitled to a free school meal regardless of any change in parental income until they finish the phase of education they are in (primary or secondary) as at 31 March 2022
* Any child who becomes eligible for a free school meal between 01 April 2018 and 31 March 2022 will remain entitled to a free school meal regardless of any change in parental income until they finish the phase of education they are in (primary or secondary) as at 31 March 2022
* Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* Child Tax Credit, **provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit** and have a **total**annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
* Parents receiving Working Tax Credit for four weeks after their employment finishes are entitled to free school meals during that period.  This also applies to parents who start working less than 16 hours per week (please seek advice about this from the Benefits Agency)
* Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive Free School Meals.

## **How can I access emergency food for my children and household and if you do not yet claim/in receipt of these benefits including free school meals?**

If you are in need of food and emergency supplies then help. As part the council’s approach to supplying food to those in need in the city at this time, they are able to provide emergency food parcels to those children/students attending primary and secondary schools, for families are struggling or facing difficult or challenging circumstances.

You may also be entitled to apply for a [**Community Support Grant, including a Crisis Fund**](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/54/benefits/3056/community_support_grants).

You could also [**contact your local Family Hub**](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/familyhubs), who will be able to talk  to you about what you and your children need and can provide you a food Bank voucher and help you access support through an [**Emergency Food Hub**](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/emergencyfoodnetwork) and other sources of help that you that need.

**Beware of scams**

We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported.'

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

Should you require any assistance please contact mail@foxford.coventry.sch.uk

Kindest Regards

Mr. C. Griffin

Assistant Head Teacher