

10th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - Is my child eligible?

Did you know that if you receive one of the benefits listed below, you can register for free school meals for your child. Even if your child does not want school lunches you should apply because it can help raise extra funds for your child's school (called Pupil Premium). This Government funding can help with extra tuition, teaching and after school activities.

If your child is in Year 3 or above, you must receive one of the following to get benefit-related free school meals:

- Universal Credit - with an annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190

See below for how to apply for free school meals.

Apply for free school meals

You can apply online for free school meals using your Norfolk Education Online (NEO) account. You can use the same account for 2-year-old childcare funding and school admissions.

To apply, please go to the following link <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Cont...



*Raising aspirations and a love for learning through
courage, resilience, positive relationships and God's love.*



COST OF LIVING VOUCHERS

If you are eligible for free school meals you will now receive a monthly 'cost of living' voucher.

The vouchers will be £15 per month, per child. There is an additional payment of £30 for the summer and for December, to coincide with the Christmas holidays. That's £240 a year per child in total.

The vouchers will be paid up to and including March 2024.

The vouchers are provided by Edenred and can be used for food and groceries in store at the following supermarkets:

- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Sainsbury's
- Asda
- Waitrose
- M&S food
- McColl's (including RS McColl's and Martin's)
- Aldi

You can also use the Edenred vouchers online at Asda and Waitrose.

If you receive a means-tested benefit and are entitled for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium) you will automatically receive the vouchers from your child's school.

If you haven't received your voucher please contact the school office at office@stmarys.stbenets.org

If you and your family are experiencing any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Dale our Pastoral Support and Safeguarding Lead on tdale@stmarys.stbenets.org

Kind Regards



Miss L Richardson
Executive Deputy Headteacher