



18th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

With the Coronavirus pandemic affecting the lives of so many Thurrock residents, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have recently lost your job or have had to take a reduction in pay you can apply for Free School meals for your child.

Certain criteria has to be met in order to be eligible. Please see the information below from Thurrock Council.

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive either:
Income Support
income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
income-related Employment and Support Allowance
Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
Universal Credit – provided your total net earnings are no more than £616.67 each month, starting from 1 April 2018
the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
Your child must be attending a maintained school in the Thurrock area. If your child is attending school outside of Thurrock, you must apply to the council for the area in which they attend school.
All applications will be checked. We may ask you to provide evidence. You must supply the information requested within 2 weeks so we can process your application.

Even if your child brings a packed lunch to school every day, the school will still receive funding from the Department for Education for every child eligible for free school meals. This means that we have the opportunity to purchase the very best equipment and resources for your child to access at school.

Applications for Free School Meals are submitted online only. To apply, please log onto www.thurrock.gov.uk. You will automatically be directed to the new standalone Parent Portal when navigating through the Thurrock website.

Yours sincerely

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