



Ribchester Road, Longridge
Preston, PR3 3XB

Head Teacher: **Paul Leaper**
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20 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

COVID-19: Free School Meals Entitlement

Due to the many changes that have taken place recently we have become aware that there may be some pupils who have previously been ineligible for Free School Meals (FSM) but who now may be entitled to receive them.

If you have a child in KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) who normally gets a meal as part of the universal infant FSM scheme, but would be eligible for Free School Meals from year 3 onwards please contact the Pupil Access Team to register (details on page 2).

Alternatively, if your personal circumstances and/or employment status has changed and you are now in receipt of benefits, then you may be entitled to claim FSM.

We are in the process of arranging for parents to receive an e-voucher during the school closure period to the value of £15 per week for each eligible child. We are hoping to have this set up this week.

If you are confirmed as being eligible, then it could be as little as 48 hours for school to be notified and for us to include you in the scheme.

Your child may be eligible to get FSM if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, that eligibility will be protected until Universal Credit is introduced (expected March 2022) even if your circumstances change. If your child is still in education on this date, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in.





Hillside Specialist School & College

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How to register for FSM:

Please ring your local education office. It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings.

You will need to provide:

- Your name
- Your date of birth
- Your National Insurance number

You will be told over the phone if you are entitled.

Contact details:

North Area Education Office

Lancaster, Morecambe, Wyre and Fylde
Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Closed for bank holidays.

Tel: 01524 581 207

Email: pupilaccessteam.north@lancashire.gov.uk

South Area Education Office

Preston, South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancashire
Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Closed for bank holidays.

Phone for all enquiries: 01772 532 109

East Area Education Office

Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale
Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Closed for bank holidays.

Tel: 01254 220 747

Email: pupil.accesseast@lancashire.gov.uk

Online: Please visit the following link:

https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium





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If you apply online you will receive an email confirmation as to whether you are eligible within 5 working days.

If you are eligible and register, please ring or email school to let us know and we can check our eligibility list which is updated daily by LCC.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime please keep yourselves and your families safe.

Kind regards

Paul Leaper

Paul Leaper
Headteacher

