



SPARKEN HILL ACADEMY

14 September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

We are acutely aware that many of our families will be affected – directly or indirectly – by the collapse of Wilkos. As one of the major employers in the immediate area, we know the effect of this will be absolutely devastating for some families.

We have always been a community driven school and we reaffirm our commitment to our families at this challenging time. If you think that we could help in any way, **please reach out**. We may be able to help in a tangible manner or just merely be able to lend a listening ear and help signpost to available help.

One tangible way in which you may benefit is by (re) applying for Free School Meals. The cost of living crisis has put unprecedented pressures on all families including purchasing basic food items. We are incredibly proud of the **amazing** meals service we provide and this service could be provided for free should your situation be adversely affected by the closure. Additionally if your child is entitled to FSM, then you will also receive support in:

- Providing financial support towards additional costs of education such as **trips**
- Providing financial support to allow every FSM child **free** access to **Breakfast Club**.
- Providing financial support towards **uniform** and **equipment**
- Providing additional academic support for FSM children who need to boost progress or be challenged further

**The following information will help you establish whether you qualify.
Who can get free school meals?**

All pupils in reception, year one or year two in primary schools are entitled to 'universal' free school meals. This is **not the same as** 'Free School Meals' (FSM). Pupils that are eligible for free school meals receive additional funding called 'Pupil Premium.' In our school if your child is entitled to Free School meals, you get financial support with other aspects of school life not just the free school meal. (See the list at the top of the letter.) If you apply and are eligible even if at some point your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible for the actual free school meal – you will receive the Pupil Premium funding for six years. Which means all the additional support listed at the top of this letter will continue for the next 6 years. (Or, whilst your child is at our school).

However, you have to apply to see if you are eligible, as you will not automatically get the additional support





SPARKEN HILL ACADEMY

You may be eligible for free school meals if you are currently in receipt of:-

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support (IS)
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR)
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance (IB-JSA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' - the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

Who can register for pupil premium?

If you receive one of the above benefits that entitle your child to free school meals, you can also register your eligibility with Nottinghamshire County Council so that you can start to benefit from this service.

How to claim

In Reception (FS2), Year One or Year Two (KS1):

If your child is in or starting reception, year one or year two they will receive the universal free school meals which you don't have to apply for. However, if you think you are eligible for 'Free School Meals' then it is **important that you apply** – so that you don't miss out on the additional Pupil Premium funding for your child.

Your child's 'Universal' free school meals will stop at the end of year two, unless you receive the above qualifying benefits and you have already registered your child with us.

To register for free school meals and pupil premium:

By Paper Form: Please complete the form attached to this letter and return it to the school office

By Online Form: Please visit : <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

By phone

If you have not claimed for free school meals for your child before ring your local area education office – **0300 500 80 80**. It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings.

To apply, you will need to register and provide:





SPARKEN HILL ACADEMY

- Your **National Insurance Number** or **National Asylum Support Service Reference Number**
- Your **last name**
- Your **date of birth**

What happens next

If you are eligible for free school meals the start date will normally be within two working days of parents contacting us and entitlement being confirmed. Children attending maintained nurseries also qualify for a free school meal as long as they are receiving funded early years education before and after lunch.

As I stated earlier, should anyone need support in any way (including applying for FSM), please just ask. We are here to help.

Kindest regards

Mr Richard Lilley (Principal)

CONFIDENTIAL: Application for free school meals and milk

Nottinghamshire County Council carries out free school meals eligibility assessments for a number of schools. Information about which schools are included in this service is available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Your details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms Miss, other)	First name(s)	Surname	Date of birth	National Insurance Number

Address:

Home telephone number

Relationship to child(ren)

Mobile telephone number

E-mail address

Children's details

Child's full name	Please tick		Date of birth	Name of school
	Boy	Girl		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		

You must sign the declaration below

The information I have given on this form is complete and accurate. I understand that my personal information is held securely and will only be used for local authority purposes. I agree to Nottinghamshire County Council using this information to process my application and carry out ongoing checks to determine my eligibility. I understand that the results of any free lunch eligibility check may be used to assess my entitlement to other pupil benefits including free school milk and school transport assistance.

Date