



Discovery Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4GJ

T: 01732 847000

Headteacher - Miss Tina Gobell

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19th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Did you know?

If your child is eligible for *free school meals* (this is not the same as Universal Infant Free School Meals) and you register them, the School will also receive extra funding called *pupil premium*. This money allows us to enhance the education and opportunities we provide for your children.

If you are eligible and register, your child will be able to receive a host of benefits including a choice of delicious, healthy hot meals every school day at no cost – this is worth £560 a year per child.

Additionally, KCC are currently providing a supermarket voucher of, at least £10 per child each week during the school holidays and access to funded activities.

Other benefits include support for school trips and workshops and help with Breakfast and After School club and uniform costs.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding is given to schools by the government to help children achieve their very best. It is provided for children who:

- Are currently registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At The Discovery School, we receive **£1,515 for every eligible pupil** who is registered for free school meals. This funding makes a real difference—for example, it has previously supported:

- Additional educational resources
- Targeted academic support
- Wellbeing and self-esteem programmes, including Forest School
- Extra-curricular and enhancement activities





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Is my child eligible?

Your child may be entitled if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are *not* entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income is £16,190 or less)
- Working Tax Credit "run-on" (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying)
- Universal Credit (if your net annual income is £7,400 or less)

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to a free school meal under the *universal infant free school meals* scheme. However, if you meet the criteria above, please still register—this ensures the school also receives the additional pupil premium funding to support your child.

Does my child have to eat school meals?

No. If your child prefers packed lunches, you can still register for free school meals. The important part is that registering brings extra funding into school, which benefits your child in other ways.

How to register

You only need to register once while your child is at the school.

Complete the online form: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

More information

Details of how we spend pupil premium funding are available on our school website. If you have any questions, or would like help with registering, please don't hesitate to contact us—we are here to help and offer advice in confidence. Thank you for taking the time to consider applying. Registering makes a real difference for both your child and our whole school community.

Yours sincerely,

Miss T Gobell - Headteacher

