



Discovery Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4GJ

T: 01732 847000

Headteacher - Miss Tina Gobell

Deputy Headteacher - Miss Jenny Baker

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Website - www.discovery.kent.sch.uk

21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Free School Meals Eligibility

You may have seen recent news coverage about the continuation of the national free school meals voucher scheme to provide Supermarket vouchers for eligible children during the upcoming school holiday.

The scheme was originally created to provide eligible pupils with access to free school meals during school closures. It was then extended to include payments during the school holidays. As children are not in school during holidays, the Government's supermarket voucher scheme funds meals to the value of £15 per week, per child. These voucher can be spent in any supermarket.

We wanted to take this opportunity to clarify that this scheme is only for **benefits-related** free school meals. Children in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One who are eligible to receive a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme (UIFSM) **do not** qualify for this benefit.

If your circumstances have changed, or you have not yet registered for benefits-related free school meals but believe you may be eligible, please complete the online application form accessed from the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

All children in your household should be registered, even if they are currently under the age of 7 and eligible for UIFSM.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- 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)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE





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The application process is confidential and will not affect any other benefits you may be in receipt of. If you are eligible, your child will be able to choose to receive a free school meal at school. We will also be able to register you to receive supermarket vouchers for any subsequent school closures.

Additionally, you could also benefit from reduced costs towards some after school activities or curriculum enrichment opportunities e.g. help with the cost of residential trips.

If you have any questions or need any help with completing the online application, please contact the School Office.

Kind regards,

Mrs A Alexander
School Business Manager

