



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Meals

We are writing to advise you that the price of a school meal for our children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 has increased to £2.40 per child per day. This is a change of 10p from the last academic year.

Unfortunately, this price increase is linked directly to the cost of living (fuel and food) price increases that we are all currently experiencing and is unavoidable. The increasing cost of both food and fuel mean we are in the regrettable position of needing to increase meal prices to cover increases in costs.

As a school, we have carefully considered if we can absorb some of the price increase to make it more affordable for parents, but the highly publicised challenges facing school budgets and rising heat and light costs particularly, mean this is just not possible.

During these ever more challenging times, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the process for claiming support under the Free School Meals Scheme. 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 Universal Infant Free School Meals.

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)





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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 to cover any school holiday periods, should the current scheme be extended.

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 help with the online application, please contact the School Office.

Kind regards,

Mrs A Alexander
School Business Manager

