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Your Ref:

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To: Parents/Carers

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February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Storm Malik/Corrie - Updates for families eligible for Free School Meals**

All pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals, who were unable to attend school as a result of school closures, will be issued with direct payments for any dates pupils were unable to attend school.

Eligible families already in receipt of free school meals, do not have to apply for this funding. Payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account on or around **14 February 2022**.

### **Further payments for 2022**

Following Scottish Government announcements earlier in the year, please see below the latest arrangements concerning Free School Meals and the Scottish Child Bridging Payments. Some frequently asked questions are answered too.

### **Direct payment of Free School Meals for mid-term Break and other 'occasional days'**

All pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals, will receive a payment of £10.00. This is comprised of a payment amounting to four days. One payment of £2.50 for the mid-term break on 14 February 2022 and also three additional payments for other occasional days throughout the school year. *Occasional days are determined locally across each cluster of secondary school and associated primaries.*

### **Do I need to apply for this funding and when will I receive payment?**

Eligible families already in receipt of free school meals, do not have to apply for this funding. Payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account by **14 February 2022**.

## **Pre-school age child in funded early learning and childcare settings**

Pre-school age children are not entitled to free school meals.

## **I have recently applied for Free School Meals, but I've not been notified of the outcome**

If you have recently applied for income based free school meals, please be assured that we are dealing with all applications as quickly as possible, and we will contact you direct when your application has been processed.

**Families who are on a low income but not currently in receipt of free school meals can check entitlement by completing the following online form:**

[Check entitlement and apply for free school meals](#)

Children are eligible for free school meals if their parents (or carers) are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The current qualifying benefits and allowances are:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £7,500
- Support under Part VI of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Universal Credit with a monthly take home pay of less than £625  
*(the qualifying benefits and allowances are subject to change)*

If you are aged 16-18 years-old and receive any of the above qualifying benefits in your own right, you can apply for free school meals.

## **Future Payments 2022**

Payments of £130 per eligible pupil, will be made at Easter, Summer, October and Christmas along with direct payment of free school meals. The payments will be made in line with the start of the school holidays. Further information will be provided in advance of the payment dates.

For more information please visit: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/assistance/free-school-meals/>

Yours sincerely



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