

## Universal Free School Meals roll out will commence in September 2022

From September, schools in Pembrokeshire will start to roll out **Free School Meals** to primary school pupils in:

- Full time nursery
- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2

The Universal Free School Meals policy is part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru, which will see free school meals extended to all primary school learners over the next three years.

Please see our frequently asked questions below:

### FAQS

*Will I need to fill in an application form to get **Universal Primary Free School Meals** for my child(ren)?*

All pupils from Full Time Nursery up to and including Year 2 are automatically qualified to receive **Universal Primary free school meals**. Parents and carers will not need to fill in an application form. Children will be asked whether they would like to order a meal each day during morning registration.

*I am on a low income and my child(ren) currently receive **Free School Meals (eFSM)** anyway - how will the introduction of the new **Universal Primary Free School Meals** scheme affect me?*

Families on low incomes will **not** be affected by the introduction of **Universal Primary Free School Meals**. You'll still be able to receive free school meals and other school essentials, such as help with school uniform, sports kit, and stationery.

*I have a child or another child starting school in September. Will they automatically get free school meals?*

If your child is starting full time nursery, reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in September, they will **automatically** qualify for the new **Universal Primary Free School Meals** scheme. However, if you as a parent or guardian are in receipt of a qualifying benefit you must still apply for **Free School Meals (eFSM)** in order to access other funding, such as School Essentials (PDG Access).

*Can schools cater for my child's special dietary requirements?*

Yes, all special dietary requirements can be catered for upon request. Please contact our School Liaison Officer via email [elinor.phlip@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:elinor.phlip@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01437 776168 to discuss your child's special dietary needs.

*My child's Cashless Catering account is in credit. How do I get a refund?*

Please email [cashless.catering@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cashless.catering@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) to request a refund or alternatively you can request that the credit be transferred to a sibling's account.