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Cyfarwyddwr Addysg
Director of Education

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Croesawn alwadau yn y Gymraeg
We welcome calls in Welsh



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

05/02/24

Dear Parent / Carer

Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) – Year 5 & 6 Pupils

From February 19th 2024, UPFSM (Universal Primary Free School Meals) will be available to all pupils in Years 5 and 6 completing the roll out to all primary aged pupils from Full time Nursery to Year 6.

In order to provide a smooth running of the service and to be able to provide lunches to those that have any special dietary requirements, this includes vegetarian preferences as well as ethical / religious diets, in addition to medical/allergen needs, you are required to fill in a Special Dietary Form and upload relevant documentation supporting any allergy / prescribed diet.

The form can be found using the link below:

<https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/do-it-online/request-or-apply/special-dietary-requirements-form/?lang=en-GB&>

It is imperative that this form is completed if your child has a special dietary requirement so that we can provide an appropriate menu.

All parents are encouraged to pre-book their children's meal(s) in advance via ParentPay.

Free School Meals / Schools Essential Grant

Although universal entitlement to free school meals is being rolled out to all pupils in Primary school, **the Welsh Government still require eligible families to apply for 'free school meal' status.** Applying for 'free school meal' status will provide you with Schools Essential Grant of **£125 per eligible child, which can be used on school uniform, PE equipment and IT for your child.**

If you receive any of the benefits outlined below and have not previously applied for free school meals for your child, please apply for the entitlement to Free School Meal status / Schools Essential Grant

Merthyr Tudful

... lle i fod yn falch ohono

Croesawn alwadau yn y Gymraeg a i'w gwneud yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod i'w gwneud yn y Gymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog.

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Qualifying benefits include:

- 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 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)

As well as receiving the Schools Essential Grant of £125 per eligible child, your child's school and the Council will also receive additional money, which can be spent on supporting pupils learning in school.

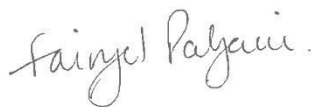
If you receive any of the qualifying benefits above, please apply for free school meal status / Schools Essential Grant online at the following:

[Apply for Free School Meals/Schools Essential Grant \(clothing grant\). | Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council](#)

If you have any children in primary school who already qualify for a free school meal, they will continue to do so, and no further action is needed for these children.

If you have any further queries [regarding Universal Primary Free School Meals](#), please email UPFSM@merthyr.gov.uk or call 01685 725000 ask for the School Meals Department and leave a message. [We will return your call within 10 working days or sooner.](#)

Wishing you a wonderful February Half Term Break.



Fairyal Pabani

School Catering Manager

Merthyr Tudful

... lle i fod yn falch ohono

Croeso i gyswrtu ym Gymraeg a i ymuno gyda ni yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod i ni os ydych chi ddesio i ddwyieithog.

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