



St George's School Bourton

A Church of England School

*work together, play together
learn together ... shine!*

Church Track
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Please take time to read this letter where we aim to explain the free school meals available from St George's School.

There are now 2 forms of 'free' meals available in schools, 'Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)' and income based 'Free Schools Meals (FSM)'.

All children in reception, year 1 or year 2 are now entitled to a free lunch (UIFSM). You can choose to take all or a few of the meals available from the menu which is sent home every 4 weeks. To avoid unnecessary waste please order only the meals that your child will be eating.

FSM are income based, to be eligible you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income that does not exceed £16,190
- Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are also entitled to free school meals.

Please contact Dorset Direct on 01305 221000 to apply, automated checks are made to confirm your entitlement. If you qualify, you will be told immediately and then receive written confirmation within three working days. If you qualify you can still choose how many meals to take or not take any.

Although all children in infant classes (reception, year 1 or year 2) will receive a free lunch meal (UIFSM), it is still important that you apply for FSM if you might be eligible. This is because, if your child is eligible, the school will receive additional funding called Pupil Premium. This is used to support the education of all pupils from low-income families as needed, to ensure that they get the same chances as other children. It is up to the school how this money is spent, but Ofsted check with them that they have used it to help raise attainment of pupils from low-income families where performance tables show that their attainment tend not to be as good as their more affluent peers. This can add up to a lot of additional funding to a school and can be used to really help children to achieve well as they grow older. Additionally, some schools use this to help with uniform costs or the cost of trips or other educational activities instead of asking for contributions from parents where they know it can be hard to find additional money.

Please contact the school office if you have any further questions.