



Kingsnorth Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Iain Witts

April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer of children starting school in September 2018

RE: Universal Free School Meals

As you may be aware, the Government decided that ALL pupils who are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes should be able to have a free school meal at lunchtime. This offer does NOT depend upon your household income or whether you receive any benefits – EVERY child in these classes is eligible to take up the offer.

The Government has decided to fund free school lunches for all pupils in this age group following the Department for Education's review of school food. In a trial, it was found that pupils who ate a high quality school lunch achieved better academically than those who did not and levels of behaviour improved. Children were also more likely to eat healthier foods such as vegetables at lunchtime, rather than some of the less healthy options that are often in lunch boxes. Parents who took part in this trial also appreciated saving the cost of school lunches (which at our school is currently £2.20 per child per day) and not having to spend time preparing packed lunches.

In order to help the school and Nourish (our school meal contractors) to prepare for this, we are asking you NOW whether you intend to take up the offer of a free school meal for your child.

This will be an "opt out" system. **It would therefore be helpful if you could complete and return the attached slip and return it to the school by Friday 1st June 2018 if your child will NOT be taking a universal free meal from September.** Accurate numbers will be crucial in planning the logistics involved in providing so many children with a hot meal, so please ensure that you send in a reply slip if appropriate.

If we do not hear from you by the above date, we will assume that your child WILL be taking the meal offered each day. Once you have taken up this initial offer of a meal for your child, we ask that they continue to have the same meal pattern for the whole term (6 weeks) although we will be flexible for the first term while the children are settling in. They do not need to have meals every day, but you must commit to the SAME days each week for this period of time. This is necessary to allow for food to be ordered efficiently.

A sample school lunch menu is available on the school website OR via the school office.

If you are in receipt of certain benefits please apply online at www.kent.gov.uk even though all children in Reception and years 1 and 2 will be able to take a universal free school meal anyway, it remains vitally important to the school that parents/carers continue to apply for free school meals if they think they are eligible. This is because all schools receive an amount of money called "Pupil Premium" for each child in receipt of a free meal applied for and approved in this way. You will appreciate that this additional funding is much needed and carefully used by our school for the benefit of children including reduction in future school trips.

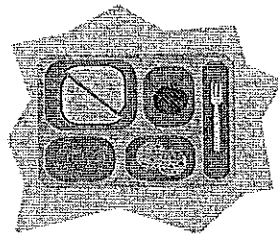
If you have any questions about the new Universal Free School Meal scheme, or about applying for a free school meal, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mr. I Witts

KINGSNORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS for KEY STAGE 1 PUPILS

“OPT OUT” FORM



Name of child	
I do NOT intend to take up the offer of a free school meal for my child	
Name of parent/carer	
Signature	