



**HERMITAGE  
ACADEMY**

Dear Parent/Carer

If your employment circumstances have changed due to the Covid-19 situation, your child may now be eligible to free school meals. (You can find more details on how to apply and eligibility on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>)

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- 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 you're 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)

If you apply now, you may be eligible for the Government's voucher scheme for the provision of free school meals whilst schools are closed. The vouchers can be received through your email and provide you with £15 per week to spend on supermarket groceries (at participating supermarkets - Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, M&S and Aldi).

You can access further information and the application form for free school meals on the school's website.

<http://www.hermitageacademy.co.uk/useful-info/free-school-meals-and-lunch-menus>

In these unprecedented times it is important that parents/carers receive the support they are entitled to. If you have any questions on the application process or voucher system, please telephone the school office on 0191 388 7161.

Best wishes,

Mrs L Turner  
Assistant Headteacher