

6th October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Phased rollout of Primary Free School Meals for the youngest children from September 2022 onwards.

As part of the Co-operation Agreement, Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru have announced plans and funding to offer every primary school pupil in Wales a free, nutritious school meal by 2024.

We are now moving on to the second phase of our roll-out which is to introduce the Universal Primary Free School Meal to Year 2 and Full-time Nursery pupils on 7th November 2022 (subject to any school inset days).

Please see timetable below for the roll-out of this scheme – please note this is subject to inset days for each school:

Information on Universal Pupil Free School Meals (UPFSM)

Year Group	Age Ranges	Expected Start Date of UPFSM	Comments	How to pay for school dinners and see the lunch choice of your child? (If you have access to the internet please log on to www.upay.co.uk to access the app).
Nursery	3 – 4 years of age	7 th November 2022	All registered nursery age pupils attending a maintained school for a full time session ie attends nursery both AM and PM will be eligible for a free school meal when in attendance on those days.	Up to 07/11/2022: The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i> From 07/11/2022: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner
Reception	4 – 5 years of age	2nd September 2022	Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	From 02/09/2022: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner

Year 1	5 – 6 years of age	2 nd September 2022	Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	From 02/09/2022: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner
Year 2	6 – 7 years of age	7 th November 2022	Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	Up to 07/11/2022: The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i> From 07/11/2022: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner
Year 3	7 – 8 years of age	Sep-23	For pupils that attend Special Schools - Eligibility for UPFSM will be based on the year group in which a pupil is currently being taught, not their age-based or 'expected' National Curriculum year group. Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	Up to Sep 2023: The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i> From September 2023: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner
Year 4	8 – 9 years of age	Sep-23	For pupils that attend Special Schools - Eligibility for UPFSM will be based on the year group in which a pupil is currently being taught, not their age-based or 'expected' National Curriculum year group. Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	Up to Sep 2023: The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i> From September 2023: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner

Year 5	9 – 10 years of age	Sep-23	For pupils that attend Special Schools - Eligibility for UPFSM will be based on the year group in which a pupil is currently being taught, not their age-based or 'expected' National Curriculum year group. Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	Up to Sep 2023: The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i> From September 2023: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner
Year 6	10 -11 years of age	Sep-23	For pupils that attend Special Schools - Eligibility for UPFSM will be based on the year group in which a pupil is currently being taught, not their age-based or 'expected' National Curriculum year group. Please note that these dates are subject to change depending on any unforeseen circumstances that may arise	Up to Sep 2023: The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i> From September 2023: parents may download the app, to see what their child had for dinner
Year 7 to Year 13	11 – 18 years of age	Not applicable	UPFSM does not apply to these year groups	The preferred method of payment for school meals is the UPAY app. <i>Contact your school for other payment methods.</i>

Eligible Free School Meals (EFSM) and Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) Understanding the difference

There are families who are already in receipt of free school meals and it is important to understand the difference between the two schemes.

Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)

It is Welsh Government's aim that every child in primary school in Wales will be eligible for a universal primary free school meal (UPFSM) by 2024, regardless of household income.

Receiving a UPFSM in this way does NOT automatically entitle families to receive other benefits such as a grant for school uniform, equipment, sports kit and kit for activities outside of school for your child.

Eligible Free School Meal (eFSM))

Families who meet certain criteria, for example those on lower incomes or in receipt of certain benefits, are eligible for free school meals (eFSM). Families in receipt of eFSM are also eligible to receive the Pupil Development Grant to buy school uniform, equipment, sports kit and kit for activities outside of school for your child. This also directly benefits the school which the pupil attends. Under the new UPFSM scheme these benefits will not be affected. There is an application process for eFSMs and it is important that when the new UPFSM scheme is introduced, eligible families continue to follow the eFSM application process so as not to lose out on other benefits.

For more information about the eligibility criteria and the application process for FSM please follow this link

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/School-dinners-and-breakfast-clubs/Free-school-meals>

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact us on catering@caerphilly.gov.uk or 01443 864055

Yours sincerely

Marcia Lewis

Principal Officer Catering