



# There is such a thing as a FREE lunch . . .

## FREE school meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

From this September, every child in reception, year 1 and year 2, who goes to a state-funded school, will be offered a free school lunch. This could save you £400 a year for each child you have in Key Stage 1.

All KS1 pupils in North Somerset schools will be welcome to stay to lunch and enjoy an award winning, nutritious, hot meal with their friends at lunch time from September.

The change is part of a new Government initiative which aims to ensure that all children can benefit from a hot meal at lunchtime. Studies show that the benefits include:

- a healthy diet
- improved concentration in the afternoons
- better behaviour and atmosphere in school as a result of all pupils (and an increasing number of teachers) eating together every day.
- a saving to you of £400 a year for each child.

Check out sample menus and other details about school food online at:

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/schoolmeals)



If your child has a medical need for a special diet, please ask for details of your school's catering provider as you will need to contact them with details of specific requirements along with a doctor's letter before your child starts school. There is no charge and there are no forms to complete, although you will have to register your child as wanting a lunch at school registration every day.

# FREE school meal benefits and pupil premium

If you think you would have been entitled anyway to claim a free school meal benefit because of your income or circumstances it's essential you still apply for this in the usual way before your child starts school.

This is because:

- Funding is granted to schools, based on the number of their pupils who are entitled to receive these free meals. For every pupil entitled to claim free school meals as a benefit, the school receives £1,300. This money is used in a variety of creative and innovative ways to help support individual pupils and the whole school community.
- The government need to know how many children are entitled to claim free school meals as a state benefit

The school receives extra money for:

- children eligible for free school meals currently or during the past six years
- children with parents currently serving in the armed forces
- children in care and adopted children

It's really important that if your child is ever eligible for free school meals (however briefly) you should claim. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time well paid work! Children may be eligible if their parents/carers are receiving

- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit
- Jobseeker's Allowance or
- Employment Support Allowance.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals as a benefit claimant please download an application form from [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/schoolmeals) from July 2014

Or for queries regarding free school meal entitlement please contact your school or the Admissions Team

Email: [FSM@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:FSM@n-somerset.gov.uk)



It is also important that if you have an older child in school [Key stage 2 and above] that you continue to apply for your free school meal benefit if you qualify.