

Register your child now!

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Would you like
your child to have a
FREE delicious meal
at school every day?

School Meals Free

Dear Parents and Carers

Since September 2014 **every** infant child in Reception, Year 1 and 2 is entitled to have a free meal at school. The Government has made this decision because a good lunch makes an enormous difference to children's health, development and ability to learn. It is also important that children develop good healthy eating habits to combat the rising problem of childhood obesity.

If you would like your child or children to receive a free meal at school, you must complete the attached form and return it to your school office.

Choosing a school lunch for your child or children could save you up to £437 per year!



Quality food, every day...

- The new School Food Standards, introduced in January 2015, make school meals the best option for providing a healthy balanced lunch for your child.
- Both meat and vegetarian options will be available every day and children with special dietary needs can be catered for if agreed in advance.
- Wherever possible, ingredients for school meals in Somerset will be sourced from local farms and producers.
- We hope that schools will have the opportunity to visit these farms to see how their food is produced.



To register your child for an infant free school meal, simply attached application form and return it to your child's school.

Infant Free School Meals ... saving you money and improving our children's health

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Satisfying and Healthy

Many parents believe that a packed lunch is the healthiest option for their children but it's actually easier to get a child's required nutrients into a cooked school meal. Only 1% of lunch boxes tested meet recommended nutritional standards and a school meal is more likely to sustain a child through the whole day. Children will still be allowed to bring their own packed lunch to school but we suggest you encourage them to try a school meal.

School meals in Somerset are healthy, tasty, and fun!



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Pupil Premium

You don't have to be in receipt of benefit to take advantage of a free school lunch. They are available for all infant children. However, schools do receive extra funding for children that come from families on low incomes. This is called Pupil Premium. This money is sent to schools by Central Government based on the numbers of pupils in the school who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). From 2012-13, it has been expanded to include:

- Children who have been eligible for FSM within the last 6 years
- Children whose parents work in the armed forces
- Children in care and adopted children

The pupil premium is worth £1,320 per pupil to your child's school and this money will be used specifically within school to help eligible children reach their full potential, both academically and socially. If you would like to find out how your school uses its pupil premium, please look on their website or speak to your school.



Application Form for Universal Infant Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

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To enable the school to know whether to reserve a free meal for your child(ren) or not and for your school to receive pupil premium (if you qualify), please complete this form.

Important: All sections must be filled in clearly in **BLOCK CAPITALS** and if you receive benefits, must be completed by the person claiming the qualifying benefit. If you have any questions, please speak to the school or call the Helpline on 0300 123 2224.

1. Details about you

Legal Surname	Legal Forename	Title	Date of Birth	National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Number							

2. Your address:

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Relationship to child(ren): _____

Telephone Number(s): Daytime _____ Mobile _____

Child(ren)'s Address: _____ Post Code _____
(if different)

3. Details of each dependant child that you wish to claim for in Somerset (include all children):

Legal Surname	Legal Forename	Date of Birth	M/F	Name of School Attending	Do you want your child to receive a free meal?*

*If your child has any dietary requirements, please speak to the school about this.

4. Declaration: I confirm that the information I have given above is correct. I will tell you immediately if my details (for example address) or my circumstances change. I understand if I qualify for pupil premium this application will be treated as an application for free school meals and my details will be logged on the free school meal system with Somerset County Council.

I wish for Somerset County Council to be able to assess my claim now and in the future via a secure computer link with the Department for Education. I agree that Somerset County Council can use the information I have provided to process my claim for free meals and can contact other sources as allowed by law to verify my initial and continuing entitlement. The information requested will be held securely and will only be disclosed to staff in the Local Authority or partner agencies who have a right of access, as well as, where appropriate, to the Department of Education, Ofsted and Capita Children's Services. If a disclosure elsewhere becomes necessary, we will contact you before doing this. When no longer required, it will be disposed of in a manner appropriate to its sensitivity.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to your school office.



Office Use Only

Eligible?	Core Data	EMS	Letter sent
Y/N			