

Barnes Farm Junior School

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3 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy. My thoughts are with all those in our community who are unwell, shielding or self-isolating. This is a very difficult and unsettling time for everyone, and I am grateful for all the support being offered from within the school community to support the Government's objectives of staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

It is unprecedented that schools would be closed, especially with no fixed date for when they will reopen. However, we will continue to follow the advice of the government and Public Health England as our families' health is the most important consideration at this time. We must prepare that this is now moving into the longer-term period. The emergency school provision remains in place for children of our key workers who really have no safe alternative and I am grateful for the teachers and staff who are supporting this. This provision will continue over the next two weeks including **Good Friday** (10th April) and **Easter Bank Holiday Monday** (13th April). These next few weeks may be a time where financial concerns become more prominent. We have already supported our children in receipt of Free School Meals with vouchers for 4 weeks and will be enrolling in the national voucher scheme to launch from Monday 20th April. **At the end of this letter** is guidance on how to check if you are eligible for free school meals, particularly if your circumstances have recently changed. Contact us if you then have this confirmed.

School, in whatever form, will continue and I am proud that all of the staff have worked to ensure that there is learning being set and communicated daily. I am also grateful for the parental commitment from home. As we move into the Easter school holidays, I believe this is a time for families, teachers and children to regroup and refresh. We will not be setting home learning during this period but have merely shared suggested activities which may help fill the time. Please try to use this time as a family and take some positives from the situation.

Over the next two weeks, there is no expectation that e-schools is accessed online (although it can be). These are unprecedented times and we are all finding our way to ensure that our children can continue to access the best learning resources. Learning opportunities will resume on Monday 20th April.

For those parents and carers that are key workers, our normal systems will continue for signing up your child/ren over the next two weeks.

When we return to school, I can assure you that we will endeavour to ensure we all pick up from where the children were in their learning when we closed; we just need in this period to retain a good routine, interest in learning but more importantly positive mental and physical health.

Please take care and stay safe during this time.

Yours faithfully,

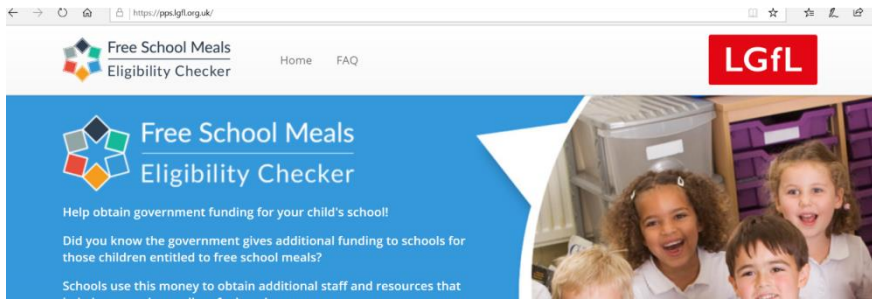
Ross McTaggart

Executive Headteacher

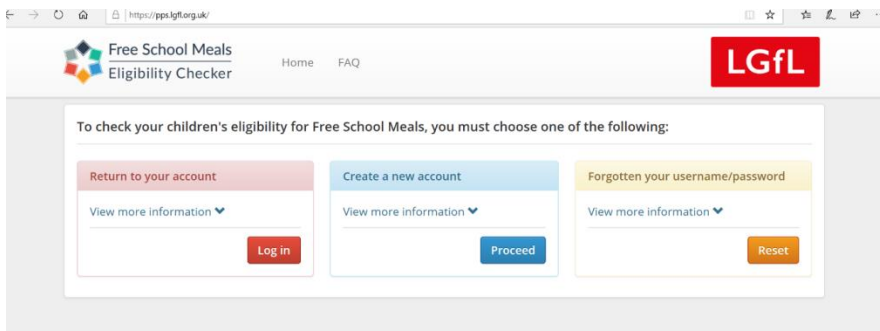


How to check eligibility for Free School Meals

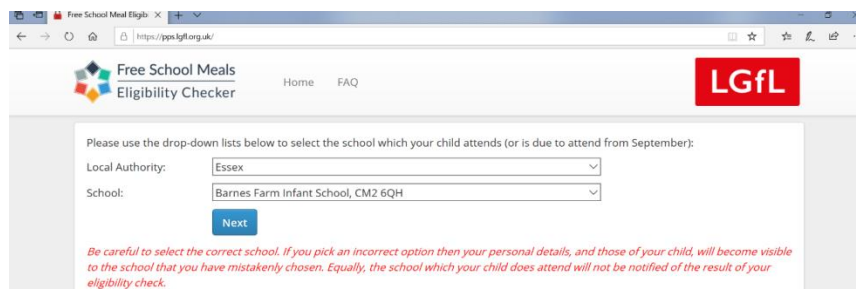
You can check your free school meals eligibility by accessing the website: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>



- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the check availability button. You will be taken to the following page:



- Click on the blue proceed button 'Create a new account'
- Select Essex from the Local Authority List and then your child's school from the drop down list and press next



- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and accept the Privacy Notice



Processing based on legitimate interests or the performance of a task in the public interest/exercise of official authority (including profiling);

Direct marketing (including profiling); and

Processing for purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics.

Automated Decision Making and Profiling. The FSM does do automated decision-making with the equivalent of legal effect, i.e. eligibility to claim free school meals and other additional funding for the school that the pupil attends. This is based upon DWP and DfE policy, therefore if a parent or guardian disagrees they should approach the school for an appeal or understanding of how the decision was based.

Cookies. This section outlines the type of cookies we apply to our FSM website <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk> and the services we offer. By using the website, you agree your personal information will be handled as described in this Privacy Notice. The cookies we may use on our website are described as below:

Strictly Necessary Cookies - These are cookies that allow you to use different parts of our website. Without them different features that you have requested cannot be provided. These are usually set in response to an action performed by the user like clicking on a link or failing to enter the correct password to your account.

First Party Cookies - These are cookies that are set by our website. And only we can read them.

Session Cookies - These are stored while you browse our site and then deleted once you leave.

Performance Cookies - These help us to track how people are using our site. They help us to know what pages people are using most and how users navigate around the site, we use this information to make informed decision about how we can improve the user experience of our site. The information we get using these cookies is completely anonymous and we will make no attempt to identify you or influence your experience of our site while you are on it.

I have read and understood the Privacy Notice:

You can review this document at any time by visiting this page.

You will then be taken to the following page

[Free School Meals Eligibility Checker](#) Home FAQ **LGfL**

Please enter your details.

You must complete all of the boxes below - paying particular attention to those in the green area, which indicates information that is matched against DWP/HMRC data.

Parent's first name:

Parent's last name:

Parent's date of birth: day month year

National Insurance number:
(or National Asylum Seeker Service number)

- Enter your details to see if you are eligible. **REMEMBER** if you have made a **recent** Universal Credit claim keep checking as we do not know how long these claims will take.
- You will get an immediate answer

Sorry, but you are not eligible for Free School Meals.

(If your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 (i.e. Key Stage 1) then Free School Meals will be provided regardless of your eligibility. The importance of this test is to alert the school about those Key Stage 1 parents who would be eligible for Free School Meals if the government was not already providing them, because schools can claim additional funding for themselves as a result of such pupils.)

- If you are eligible you will have the option to print a certificate. **Please send a copy of the certificate (even just a screenshot on your phone) to the school.**

