

FAO Parent/Carer

**Your ref: FSM Universal Credit**  
**Our ref: LH/KB**  
**Contact: School Welfare**

March 2018

Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director  
Children and Young People's Service  
Business Support  
Admissions, Transport & Welfare Team  
Jesmond House, 31-33 Victoria Avenue  
Harrogate  
HG1 5QE  
**Tel:** 01609 533679  
**Email:** [schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schoolwelfare@northyorks.gov.uk)  
**Web:** <http://northyorks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Dear Parent,

Did you know that Universal Credit is currently a qualifying benefit for Free School Meals?

If you receive Universal Credit then your children are entitled to a free meal in school. Claiming free school meals could save you almost £400 per child per year, and could enable the school to gain over £2,000 per year extra funding for every child as well. So even if your child doesn't take the free meal, or your child gets a free meal because they are currently in reception or Key stage 1, you should apply now if you haven't already.

From **1 April 2018**, the government are introducing a net Universal Credit earning threshold of £7,400 per year for free school meal eligibility which means that some families who are eligible now would not be if they apply after 1 April.

It is important that you apply now as all **children assessed as eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) by 1 April 2018 will continue to be eligible until at least 2022**, while Universal Credit is rolled out across the country. There would also be no need for any further FSM eligibility checks as well.

To make sure that you don't miss out **please apply now and before the 1<sup>st</sup> April**.

Forms are available from the school office, on line at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals> or by contacting the Admissions, Transport and Welfare Team on the details above.

Yours sincerely

*Lisa Herdman*

Lisa Herdman  
Business Support Manager  
Admissions, Transport and Free School Meals Team