



Grove Park Primary School  
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Kent  
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4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Grove Park school, like most other organisations has felt the impact of the rising costs of food, energy and staffing. The school has not increased its daily meal cost for some time, during which time our catering staff costs have increased by approximately 20% with no increase in headcount and food costs have continued to increase, with the price of milk and eggs for example increasing by 16% and 25% respectively.

It is therefore necessary to increase our daily meal charge for those that pay for meals, which we plan to introduce in two phases as follows:

**From 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 the cost will increase to £2.93 per day (£14.65 per week)**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 the cost will increase to £3.05 per day (£15.25 per week)**

Please ensure that you check your child's eligibility for free school meals if you are not receiving these. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school.
- in full-time education

If you do not qualify for most benefits (also known as having 'no recourse to public funds'), your child may still be eligible for free school meals. Please contact the local authority to find out if they are eligible.

Currently, all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as **universal infant** free school meals (UIFSM). This is different to the free school meals scheme.



If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because your child may be eligible for additional support with other school costs, such as school trips.

If you feel you may be entitled to Free school meals, please either apply online [Free school meals - Kent County Council](#) or speak to the school office in confidence on 01795 477417 to arrange an eligibility check to be submitted on your behalf.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Flain  
Head of School