

Tapton SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer,

We would like to draw your attention to the government's Free School Meals scheme.

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that the personal circumstances of many families in Sheffield have changed dramatically. Many households have lost income and may be finding it difficult to claim benefits and seek assistance.

If you think that you might be eligible for Free School Meals, we would encourage you to apply to Sheffield City Council. Guidance around who is eligible can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/sheffield> and a link to the application form can be found here: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolmeals>

If you require any support to complete your application, a help line is available on 0114 2734567

It is important to remember that families who become eligible now will be protected and continue to receive Free School Meals until March 2022 under a new ruling following the rollout of Universal Credit. Taking up this allowance could save a family over £400 per child each year.

Schools also benefit, as pupils eligible for free schools meals attract Pupil Premium funding which is guaranteed for 6 years, whether or not the pupil continues to be eligible for free schools meals during that time.

Additional support available

Emergency food parcels are being provided by Sheffield City Council to vulnerable families. In addition, food banks can also provide support.

The VAS (Voluntary Action Sheffield) website now includes a 'Sheffield Covid Support Map' which includes details of support offered by voluntary and community groups. This can be found in the COVID-19 section of their website here <https://www.vas.org.uk/what-we-do/covid19/>

If you have any further questions or require any additional support during this difficult time, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the email above.

Yours faithfully,



K Rhodes
Headteacher



Valuing everyone, Caring for each other, Achieving excellence