



# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

## Universal Infant Free School Meals

As you are aware there is a Government Scheme whereby all infant school age children are eligible for a free school meal whilst they are at school. This is called the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme. The amount we receive each year from this grant is a significant figure for us, which we then use to the educational benefit of all the children at school. **We are writing to you now to ask you to support our school by participating in a special menu on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This grant is allocated according to how many pupils order a school meal for this date!**

Under the terms of the scheme, government funded schools, like ourselves, are given funding by way of a grant during the academic year. The grant supports schools in delivering the legal requirement to offer free school meals, meeting the school food standards, to all their reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils. Subject to meeting this legal duty, schools may spend the grant for the purposes of the school; that is to say for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school, or for the benefit of pupils registered at other schools. They may also spend it on community facilities, for example services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of pupils at the school or their families, or people who live or work in the school's locality. Schools do not have to spend the entire grant in the financial year beginning 1 April 2020; they may carry forward some or all the grant.

To enable us to receive this funding, we have to provide statistical evidence on specific dates during the year of the number of children having a school meal, by way of a census. The first census day where the number of children having a school meal will be recorded in relation to this funding **is next Thursday 1 October**. To coincide with this date, we will be offering a special menu on the day as detailed below. This will also give us the opportunity to trial hot meals, before the October half term, to decide whether or not we are realistically able to return to a hot meal choice given the current bubble restrictions.

The menu on the day has options that have always been really popular with the children:

**Battered fish and chips**  
**Vegetarian sausage and chips**  
**Margherita pizza and chips**  
**with carrot cake dessert.**

We are therefore asking as many children as possible to order and eat a school dinner on that day. If your child hasn't yet tried a school meal, this would be an ideal opportunity for them to have one with their friends in class.

We will be changing the menu options on Sims and are asking if all children could choose their meal options again as anything previously selected will be removed. Please could you pre-order this online, as you would normally with your child's school meals.

We do hope you will all be able to support us in this to help increase an element of our school funding for use on your children.

Kind regards



Lucy Wilby  
Executive Headteacher



Emma Curthoys  
Head of School