

# Universal Primary FREE School Meals

Welsh Government aims to provide every child in primary school in Wales with a *free school meal* by September 2024, regardless of household income.

Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) have been rolled out to all pupils in full-time nursery and Reception class since September 2022 and this will be extended to all Year 1 and Year 2 pupils in April 2023, after the Easter break.

ALL children in full-time nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2, can now have a free school meal every day, you do not need to apply. Just book your child's meal in the usual way via your school.

In September 2023, we aim to extend this rollout to our Year 3 & 4 pupils and to Year 5 & 6 by the end of the academic year 2023/2024.



## Am I entitled to PDG Access Grant?

Families who meet certain criteria, e.g., those on lower incomes, or in receipt of certain benefits, who would previously have been eligible for free school meals (eFSM) can continue to apply for eFSM status. Families qualifying for eFSM status will also receive the PDG Access Grant, to buy school uniform and equipment, sports kit and equipment for activities outside school.



For more information on UPFSM please contact [UPFSM@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:UPFSM@merthyr.gov.uk) or call **01685 725000** and ask for the **School Meals Department**. If you haven't already applied for eFSM status for your child or the PDG Access Grant please apply at [www.merthyr.gov.uk/do-it-online/request-or-apply/free-school-meals](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/do-it-online/request-or-apply/free-school-meals)