

MAYOR OF LONDON

09 January 2024

Dear Headteacher,

As the new term begins, I wanted to write to you to let you know some fantastic news about the Mayor of London's universal free school meals programme – its extending until 2025.

As you may know, since we started universal free school meals in September, more than 17 million free lunches have been offered to primary school pupils in state funded schools across our city.

This couldn't have been done without your hard work and support. The Mayor and I have been moved by the many messages we have received from parents, teachers and pupils, who've told us about how much free school meals have meant to them. Over the past year I've visited many schools across the capital, and the dedication I've seen to providing all our children with healthy and nutritious meals has been inspiring.

We understand the difficulties that many families across London are still facing, **so the Mayor of London is extending funding for universal free school meals for another academic year.** This means that all primary school children in state funded schools will continue to be able to have a free school meal until September 2025.

The Mayor is also increasing the amount of money provided for the price per meal to £3.00.

The grant that your borough will receive in 2024/25 will be 18.5% higher than the offer from national Government for universal infant free school meals. The Mayor and I will continue to call upon the Government to step forward and provide the funding to make this permanent.

I sincerely hope that this programme will continue to make a meaningful difference to families and your school throughout 2024. Your boroughs have also already been informed about this. Further details will be shared with you and your borough lead over the next few weeks.

Letter to families

Please see attached a letter for families in your school from the Mayor of London telling them about this good news. Your support in the distribution of this to all families, parents and carers of children in key stage 2 would be invaluable, as this letter also contains a helpful reminder about the importance of pupil premium funding and registering for government funded free school meals. We will also be translating the letter into several additional languages, and these will be available on our website to download.

Donated Kitchen Equipment

In December, I confirmed that we received offers of donations from various companies offering commercial standard white goods and kitchen equipment.

A reminder that more information on the criteria and how to apply can be found in the attached guidance and the deadline for submissions is the 15th January 2024.

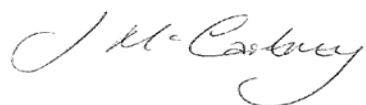
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The efforts of your school's staff are truly commendable and continue to make a meaningful difference to communities in our city.

Thank you for all that you and your team do.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do send them to freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'J McCartney'.

Joanne McCartney AM
Deputy Mayor for Children and Families