

19 July 2023

Dear Parent and Carers

London Free School Meals (FSM) Offer – Years 3 to 6

The London Mayor's office has announced that, for academic year 2023/24, they are funding free school meals for all children in Years 3 to 6 who would otherwise have to pay for school lunches.

Children in year groups Reception to Year 2 will continue to receive free school meals through the government's Universal Infants Free School Meal (UIFSM) funding.

Children in Reception to Year 6 who are already eligible for free school meals will continue to receive a free school meal through the government's existing free school meal funding offer. It is **very important** that pupils who are eligible for free school meals under the government's existing offer (via pupil premium funding) **continue to apply for free school meals** as this attracts vital additional funding to schools for enrichment activities and targeted pupil support. It is essential that our schools continue to receive this additional funding to support your children.

NEST have invested significantly in our school kitchens, over £500,000 in the last two years and have been working closely with Harrison Catering who provide school meals in all our Bromley schools to ensure that our kitchens are staffed and equipped ready to deal with an anticipated increase in meal numbers from September. Our recent survey regarding school meals and uptake from September 2023 had a high response rate; thank you.

We are pleased to confirm that all Bromley NEST schools will be participating in this London FSM offer from September 2023.

Families will need to confirm your child's intended meal pattern from September 2023 with your child's school. Any queries please contact your school office.

Any outstanding debts relating to school meals taken prior to September 2023 must be paid in full. Please contact your school office to arrange settlement as soon as possible. Likewise, any outstanding credit balances can either repaid to you or donated to your school funds.

Funding for the London FSM offer for pupils in Years 3 to 6, is only for ONE year and we await further guidance on whether funding will continue from 2024/25 onwards.

NEST we are fully committed to providing a nutritious, tasty and rewarding lunch-time experience for all our pupils and are pleased to participate in this free school meal offer for all our pupils.

Yours sincerely

School Meals Teams