

Update for residents

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Moreton & Saughall Massie



YOUR LOCAL TEAM
Gary Bennett, Cllr. Vida Wilson
and Colin Baldwin

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

Will you back our call to extend free school meals?

In December, I voted with Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat Councillors to support the call to extend free school meals to all children in primary school.

I also serve as a governor of a primary school here in Moreton - I believe all children should have a healthy, nutritious meal at school.

Back in 2014, the Government provided extra cash for councils to introduce free school meals for children in reception classes and years 1 and 2 – benefitting children aged between 4-7. I've seen the benefits that change has had.

This year, schools in Wirral have received an extra £1.9 million to maintain that support.

It means that those children get a healthy, nutritious meal regardless of their parents' income or changes in circumstances.

Now, with family budgets squeezed, I believe that extending free school meals to all primary school children would really benefit household budgets. It would also help to ensure that all primary school children get the best start in life.

At the moment, free school meals are provided to only those families with the lowest incomes and even a slight increase in their pay means their child could lose free school meals.

Some councils in other parts of the country have already introduced 'universal' free school meals in primary schools. I want the vote last December to be the start of this change and not just a political tactic in the Town Hall.

If you agree, and would like to see children benefit from this proposal, please support our campaign – scan the QR code below or return the slip on the other side of this letter.

Your sincerely

Councillor Vida Wilson
Moreton West & Saughall Massie



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I SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN TO EXTEND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you want keep up to date with this issue via email, what's your email address?
Then cut or tear off and post back to us free of charge to the address below.

Name

I consent to being contacted by Councillor Vida Wilson on this issue

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Email

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Return to: **Cllr Vida Wilson, FREEPOST RUAL-ZXEJ-GHCY, PO Box 269, WIRRAL CH29 9GB**



Cut along this line and post the slip back to the address above

DID YOU KNOW?

All children in reception, year one and year two in state schools in England are currently entitled to a free school meal at lunchtime on weekdays in term time.

For children in year three and above in England, only those whose parents receive benefit payments are eligible.

For those on universal credit, household earnings must be less than £7,400 per year.

REACHING FAMILIES IN NEED

Extended means-tested or universal free school meals would put money back in the pockets of parents who are either currently purchasing school meals or preparing packed lunches.

It would save households of two parents and two children £37 per month on average.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS SAVE MONEY FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

This means that working parents receiving pay rises may see their earnings increase above the threshold, even as the purchasing power of their salary decreases.

The threshold for free school meals means that a family with two children and earnings of £7,401 per year would not receive free school meals worth £900 per year – but they would if they earned a pound less.

HELPING THE NHS

Research has shown that the national universal infant free school meal scheme increased the proportion of children deemed a



'healthy weight' and reduced school children's body mass index (BMI) throughout the reception year at school.

When local authorities provide universal free school meals throughout primary school, children have reduced obesity. Research in Sweden has shown that children offered universal free school meals throughout primary school had higher educational attainment and better health.