

MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: 19 July 2024

Dear Headteacher,

I'm writing to thank you for the work you and your team have put into delivering our Universal Free School Meals programme this year.

I'm delighted that, following my re-election, free school meals will now be made permanent for all state primary school pupils in our city.

Thanks to you and your colleagues across London, an extra 287,000 primary school children were able to access over 43.5 million free school meals this year – a tremendous achievement. I've been deeply touched by the heartfelt messages I've received from both parents and pupils, telling me about the difference these free school meals have made to them and their family. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of you and all your staff.

In line with the first year of the programme, the funding for 2024/25 will be issued at a borough level, with councils responsible for administering funding to our schools. Boroughs will be offered £3 per meal in order to continue delivery of free school meals from September. This is a 13% increase in funding from 2023/24. Funding allocations have been made with an assumed 90% uptake, and schools will continue to have the opportunity to secure additional funding if they can evidence uptake above 90%.

I know times are still tough for many families across London, so I sincerely hope that this programme will continue to make a meaningful difference to your pupils and school community.

I also hope the end of the term goes well and I wish you a restful and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

