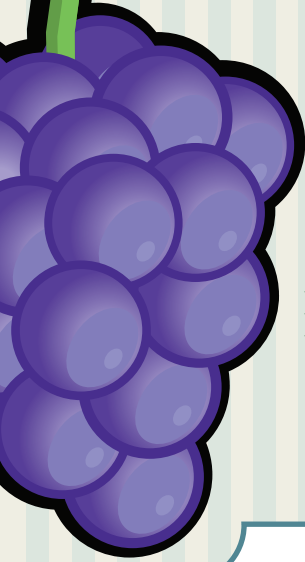


MetroFresh

*School*  
FOOD  
*Plan*

MetroFresh  
...made with love

At the  
heart  
of school catering  
...made with love



# Feeding THE FUTURE OF WIGAN

*'This plan is about  
good food  
and happiness.*

*It is about the  
pleasures of growing,  
cooking and eating  
proper food.*

*It is also about  
improving the academic  
performance of our  
children and the  
health of our nation.'*

*Good food provision in schools has been shown  
to lead not only to healthier children, but to  
improved attainment. We hope this plan will help  
to create a generation of children who enjoy food  
that makes them healthier, more successful and,  
most importantly, happier.*

- Henry Dimpleby and John Vincent -  
[www.schoolfoodplan.com](http://www.schoolfoodplan.com)





# Free Meals

*There has never been a better time to make savings in your household!*

**Free school meals for all children in reception, year 1 and 2 from September 2014. Ensure your child has a Universal Infant free school meal and save your household upto £418 per child per year.**

From September 2014, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in England will be eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals as part of the governments new initiative.

This includes infant pupils in maintained infant and primary schools, free schools, academies, special schools and pupil referral units.


School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential. they can enjoy delicious, healthy meals without the bills and the fuss of making packed lunches.

There is nothing healthier for your child and your family's budget than free school meals. All our meals meet nutritional standards and our professional cooks prepare the meals for your child; it saves you having to worry about the effort and expense of making packed lunches every day.

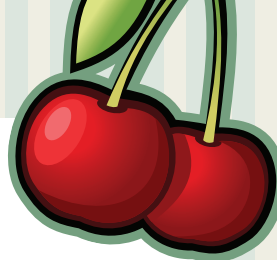
## **Think of the time you'd save**

If your child has a healthy and tasty free school meals instead of packed lunches, you could save up to 190 hours a year, which is the time needed to make packed lunches that meet the nutritional standards of school meals – that's just over a week!

Talk to your child's school for more details of how to take up your entitlement.



## The Pupil Premium



The Pupil Premium is worth up to £1300 per pupil to your school and it is additional government funding given to publicly funded schools in England.

It is claimed as part of Free School Meals and if you receive certain benefits or have a household income below the governments threshold your school will receive the Pupil Premium.

The funding is used to provide your child with the best education and support and is utilised for a range of interventions including: help with costs of school trips, music fees, teaching assistant staff, after school programmes, and new and extra equipment etc.

To find out more about how this funding is used at your child's school, please contact the school or visit the school website.

### Making a Free School Meals Application

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 they will automatically receive free school meals through the governments UIFSM initiative,

**however,**

....if you are claiming one of the eligible benefits or your household income is below the governments threshold, then it is extremely important that you **still complete an application form** so your child's school receives the further funding from the pupil premium.

You can continue to claim for Free School Meals through the **new and improved** online claims process.

The new claim form will soon be available at:

[www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)



The new application form provides you with an instant eligibility check and will immediately return a decision on entitlement. If successful, you will receive a letter (which you can print out) informing you of the decision which you can then give to your child's school.

If you prefer, your child's school can make an application for Free School Meals on your behalf. You will need to give your consent and provide the school with the following information;

Parents name

Address (including postcode)

Date of birth

National Insurance Number

Income type and yearly income if applicable

Child's name, date of birth and current school

## Criteria and Eligibility

Parents must meet the following criteria in order for their child to be eligible for Free School Meals and for their school to receive the Pupil Premium.

- **Income support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190**



## Can I claim free school meals for my older children?

Free school meals are available to all children including those in years 3 and above whose parents receive one of the following benefits –

Income Support

Income-based Jobseekers Allowance

The guaranteed part of State Pension Credit

Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Child Tax Credit (Providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by the Inland Revenue)

Working Tax Credit run-on (Paid 4 weeks after you stop qualifying got Working Tax Credit)

Universal Credit

To find out more visit [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>"

[www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) by making a claim for Free School Meals your school may be eligible to qualify for The Pupil Premium.

## Other Benefits

It is important that if you think that you may be eligible to receive Housing Benefits and/or Council Tax Reduction that you complete a 'Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction New Claim Form'. This will also perform the same Free School Meals eligibility checks as above.

Please see contact information on back page.



# Why choose school meals?

It's the healthy option.

The School Food Plan and the new food based standards for lunches aim to improve the academic performance of our children and the health of our nation. Good food provision in schools has shown to lead not only to healthier children but also to improved achievement.

In MetroFresh, School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential. There is nothing healthier for your child and your family's budget than free school meals. As professional cooks prepare the meals for your child, it saves you having to worry about the effort and expense of making packed lunches every day.

MetroFresh recognise that good quality, nutritious food is not only an essential building block for a healthy life style, it can also help children and young people reach their full educational potential. Enjoying good food in a friendly and sociable environment when young can establish a lifelong pattern of healthy eating that continues throughout life.

We want to ensure that every child has the best start in life; enabling all children and young people to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives and their attitude and behaviour towards food is a significant part of this. We care about the food your child eats at

Lunchtime and we aim to positively influence the diet of our children and young people by always thinking about where the food we put on our plates comes from and how it was produced.



# Locally sourced food

A passion for food is the thread which runs through the fabric of MetroFresh and ensuring the highest quality raw ingredients is a priority to us. We are committed to using local and regional suppliers in order to minimise 'food miles' and to support the local economy. In fact, all our fresh veg is farmed just 12 miles up the road.

We work hard to carefully select and monitor our food suppliers to make sure we get the best that money can buy whilst at the same time ensuring all supplier's comply with the same business ethics and policies around food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection.

95% of our school food suppliers are classed as local and 75% of our food purchases are produced by local businesses.

All our fresh meat is from farms that satisfy UK welfare standards and our fish is recognised as Marine Conservation Society 'Fish to eat'

Our Fresh Milk is produced on the Fylde Coast and we hold the Good Egg Award for adopting the policy of only procuring free range eggs, MetroFresh being one of only a handful of local authority caterers to hold this accolade.





## Putting the fun into food

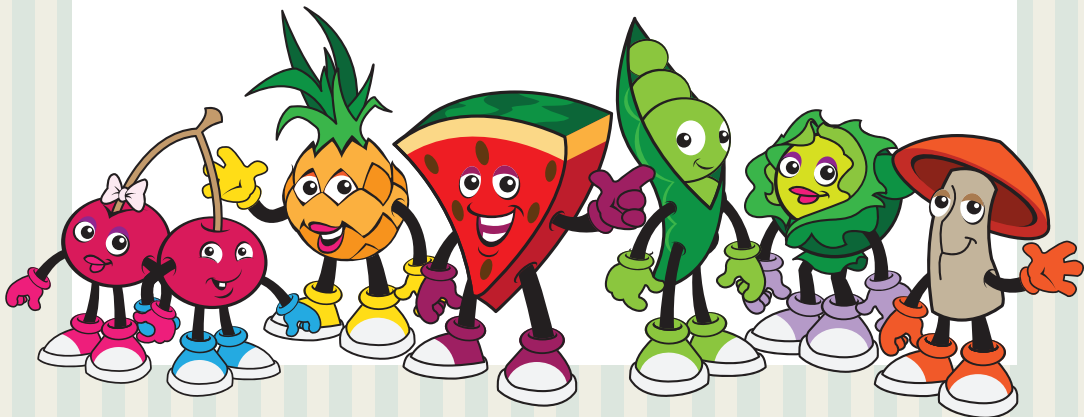
Our Lunch Bunch characters are designed to make school lunches even more enjoyable and help us introduce new foods and tastes to children.

Our characters and tasty menu encourage children to make healthier food choices in order to provide them with the energy to actively learn in the afternoon.

MetroFresh have a planned promotional calendar which brings fun, excitement and education to lunch times and actively encourages participation from those who don't always have a school lunch.

- Christmas Parties
- Chinese New Year
- Valentines Day
- Easter Eggs-travaganza
- Wimbledon
- Harvest Festival

All theme menu's and promotional events will be available on your schools website so please keep visiting to see what is planned.



# Special Diets

**We aim to provide a school meal for all pupils, including those with medical diets.**

These special diets are for pupils with a medical problem, not just a dislike of certain foods. You will need to tell the school that your child has an allergy and also provide medical evidence, for example a letter from their GP or a consultant paediatrician, together with any information received from their dietician.

Once the school has received this information they will tell the Cook Supervisor. Depending on the nature of the request it may be necessary for a service manager to meet with you and the school to discuss your child's needs in detail.

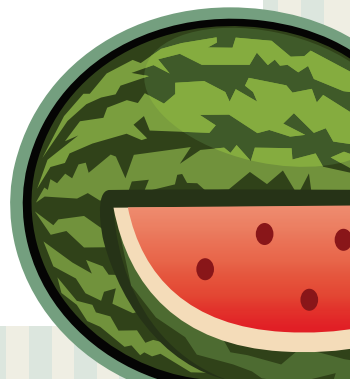
## Want to join us?

We are always looking for energetic and enthusiastic people to join our catering, caretaking, cleaning or School Crossing Patrol teams and we offer full training and induction programme, a minimum hourly rate of £7.45, a term time contract which may fit in with family commitments, uniform and entry into the local government pension scheme.

For those individuals who want to progress, we offer both internal development programmes and NVQ courses to enhance your skills and learning.

For up to date information on current job opportunities please go to [www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Jobs-Careers](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Jobs-Careers)

Or email [MetroFresh@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:MetroFresh@wigan.gov.uk) with any enquiries, or for an application form.



# CONTACT US

For more information  
on the services we provide;

visit [www.wigan.gov.uk/Business/MetroFresh](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Business/MetroFresh)  
or [www.wigan.gov.uk](http://www.wigan.gov.uk)

Visit us on Facebook or Twitter at  
[www.facebook.com/wigancouncilonline](http://www.facebook.com/wigancouncilonline)  
[www.twitter.com/wigancouncil](http://www.twitter.com/wigancouncil)

## Questions and advice about benefits applications?

Queries about Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction  
and/or Free School Meals should be directed to:

### Wigan Council Customer Services

Web: [www.wigan.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/benefits)

Email: [benefits@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@wigan.gov.uk)

Wigan Life Centre is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday  
to Friday and 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturdays. For opening  
times of our other Life Centres go to  
[www.wigan.gov.uk/wiganlife](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/wiganlife)

Phone: 01942 828644

E-mail: [benefits@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@wigan.gov.uk)

All the information in this booklet is current and up to date as of June 2014

