**People & Partnerships**

Midlothian Council Midlothian

Fairfield House

8 Lothian Road

Dalkeith Executive Director

EH22 3ZG Ms Fiona Robertson

22 December 2021

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

# Early Learning and Childcare and Primary 1 to Primary 5

On the return to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and schools in January, all ELC children and Primary 1 to Primary 4 children will be provided with a free school meal from our school meals service.

**From January Primary 5 children will also be entitled to a free school meal.**

Thiswill be provided by our school meals service. Please ensure your child’s school is aware of any dietary requirements.

When the term starts in January packed lunches will be provided to children to eat in their setting/classroom. Pupils who would prefer to bring their own packed lunch from home are welcome to do so although we ask that items made with or containing nuts are not included.

ELC and school lunch menus can be found on Midlothian Council’s website ([School lunches](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/13/school_lunches)

[| Midlothian Council)](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/13/school_lunches) or obtained from your child’s school.

# Primary 6 and 7 and Secondary

On the return to school in January Primary 6 and 7 and all secondary pupils are required to bring a packed lunch to school. All children and young people who are entitled to free school meals will receive BACS payments as were paid previously.

# Further Assistance

If your financial circumstances have changed and you need additional advice and support contact your child’s school.

If you may be entitled to free school meals/clothing grant there is further information and an application form on the council website:

[Free school meals and clothing grants | Midlothian Council](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants)

If you are in extreme financial hardship you may want to apply to the Scottish Welfare Fund: [Scottish Welfare Fund | Scottish Welfare Fund - apply online | Midlothian Council](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/scottishwelfarefund)

Yours sincerely

# *Julie Fox*

## Julie Fox

Schools Group Manager

Your Ref:

Our Ref: JF/cl **www.midlothian.gov.uk**