

Bushes Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to draw your attention to the following grant that may be available to you. Please find below details of how to check your eligibility as well as how to apply.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant is 3 cash payments that you can apply for if you're a parent or a carer. You can get these payments:

- if you have a child who's the right age for a payment
- whether you're in work or not, as long as you're on certain payments or tax credits

Best Start Grant includes 3 one-off cash payments:

1. Pregnancy and Baby Payment
2. Early Learning Payment
3. School Age Payment

1. Pregnancy and Baby Payment

You can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from 24 weeks pregnant up to the day your baby is 6 months old. This goes up to 1 year old if you've taken over looking after a child, such as if you've adopted. You can apply for a child whether they're your first child or not.

If you can get the Pregnancy and Baby Payment for your first child, you'll be paid £600. You'll be paid £300 for any child that comes after your first, such as your second or third child, or any child after these.

2. Early Learning Payment

You can apply from your child's second birthday up to the day your child is 3 years 6 months old. If you can get the Early Learning Payment, you'll be paid £250 for each child you can get the payment for.

3. School Age Payment

You can apply for the School Age Payment in the year your child should be starting school. Exact dates when you must apply depend on when your child was born (you cannot apply out-with these dates):

Your child's date of birth	When you need to apply
Between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015	Between 3 June 2019 and 29 February 2020
Between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016	Between 1 June 2020 and 28 February 2021

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1TZ

Website: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

If your child was born later than February 2016, you'll be able to apply after May 2021. You cannot apply for the School Age Payment for a child born before 1 March 2014.

If you get the School Age Payment, you'll get £250 for each child you can get the payment for.

If you have children who are the right age for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment, you only need to fill in the online Best Start Grant form once to apply for all these payments.

What affects whether you can apply

If you're over 18, you can apply whether you're in work or not, but you must be getting one of these:

- Child Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), not 'contribution based' JSA
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), not 'contribution based' ESA

Most people who get JSA or ESA get income-based JSA or income-related ESA. If you're getting Child Benefit, you must still be getting one of the benefits or payments on this list to get Best Start Grant.

Your income, or the amount you get of any of these payments or benefits, does not matter. You just need to be getting at least 1 of them.

If you're not getting any of these benefits or payments, but have applied for 1, you can still apply for Best Start Grant.

Which parent can apply for Best Start Grant

You can apply if you're the main person looking after a child. This includes:

- the child's birth mother
- if you're living with the birth mother and the two of you are a couple, married or civil partners
- single fathers

You can also apply if you've taken over looking after a child, such as if you've adopted or are a kinship carer.

Please visit <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant/> to access the online application form.

Yours sincerely

Craig McCrorie

Head Teacher

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