

# **MSP encourages applications for Best Start Grant**

**Eligible families will receive £250 ahead of new school term.**

**Gordon MacDonald MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands encourages parents of children aged four to five to apply for the SNP Government's Best Start Grant.**

A one-off £250 payment is currently open to eligible families, with a child who was born between 1st March 2015 and 29th February 2016, who will be starting primary school later this year.

The School Age payment can be used for anything from a new pair of school shoes or arts and crafts materials for children.

The payment is part of the SNP Government's Best Start Grant, a package of three payments for families in receipt of eligible benefits – including Universal Credit and Housing Benefit – to help at key stages in a child's life.

Mr Macdonald said: "Covering the costs of a child starting school can be tough on family finances, especially in the current climate.

"The SNP Government's school age payment offers low income families, or those who receive support like Universal Credit, a £250 payment around the time children start at primary school.

"We're absolutely determined that every child, regardless of circumstances, gets the best start in life. So in these

unprecedented and difficult times, I would encourage parents to check to see what financial support they are eligible for or to apply by visiting [mygov.scot](http://mygov.scot) or calling 0800 182 2222.”