



15th April 2020

Free School Meals

Dear Parent/Carer

It is vital that we are doing all that we can to support our families during this particularly difficult time. Families who are currently claiming for Free School Meals (FSM) have benefitted from a food voucher system for each of their children which has replaced the free meals in school during the COVID-19 lockdown period. To ensure that no one who is entitled to this benefit is missing out we have decided to gather information from families who could potentially be claiming for FSM and are not currently doing so. A survey will be sent out to these parents in the next 24 hours via text message.

Could your child be entitled to free school meals (FSM)?

In our schools if your child is entitled to FSM then we receive additional funding which we use in the following ways:

- Providing additional academic support for FSM children who need to boost progress or be challenged further.
- Providing financial support towards additional costs of education such as trips.
- Additional Educational needs resources.
- A free lunch for your child every day including on day trips.

The following information will help you establish whether you qualify:

Who can get free school meals?

All pupils in Reception, year one or year two in primary schools are entitled to 'universal' free school meals. **This is not the same as 'Free School Meals' (FSM).** Pupils that are eligible for free school meals receive additional funding called 'Pupil Premium.' In our school if your child is entitled to Free School Meals, you get financial support with other aspects of school life not just the free school meal. (See the list at the top of the letter.) If you apply and are eligible even if at some point your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible for the actual free school meal – you will receive the Pupil Premium funding for six years, which means all the additional supported listed at the top of this letter will continue for the next 6 years (or, whilst your child is at our school).

You do have to apply to find out if you are eligible, as you will not automatically get the additional support.

You may be eligible for free school meals if you get:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Who can register for pupil premium?

If you receive one of the above benefits that may entitle your child/children to FSM, please complete the questionnaire we are sending out shortly so that we can support you in your application and to also ensure that you are receiving the benefits you are entitled to via the FSM system.

Yours sincerely



Amarjit Cheema OBE
Chief Executive Officer