



June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to share this really important information with you so we can access more funding for our school.

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

From September 2014, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in state-funded schools in England became eligible for free school meals. This new scheme is called Universal Infant Free School Meals. The government is funding schools in England to provide every child in these year groups with a nutritious meal at lunch time. The aim is to improve academic attainment and save families money. School meals meet strict nutritional standards. Free School Meals & Pupil Premium Research shows that better food in schools is improving what children eat during the school day, and there's evidence of a clear link between what children eat at lunchtime in school and how they focus with their teachers in the afternoon. Although, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently entitled to free school meals, if you are receiving qualifying benefits, Ashton Keynes will also be entitled to an extra £1,320 Pupil Premium for each of your children attending the school. If you are receiving benefits please contact the school for details.

Free School Meals extra funding for our school

It is very important that if your child is entitled, you **still register** for **Free School Meals** under the current scheme. This will mean that the school will benefit from **£1,320 extra funding per child** from central Government each year via the Pupil Premium and also that they will continue to receive free meals when they are in years 3 - 6 (if you continue to be eligible). Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already takes advantage of the free school meals available it is still important to complete the FSM application form to unlock this additional funding. This money can be used by the school to fund valuable additional support for your child for example extra tuition, teaching assistants or targeted intervention. Additional funding can be used in our school to raise the attainment of pupils from lower income families and close the gap between them and their peers. Furthermore, even if you don't want your child to receive a free meal at present, we would still encourage you to register for free school meals so that our school receives this funding in order to make more academic progress with your child.

What is Pupil Premium Grant?

Pupil Premium Grant is additional funding given to schools to help raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. It is paid to schools according to the number of pupils on role who have been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years, or are Looked After and Adopted from care. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, pupil premium funding will be:

Disadvantaged learners

- £1900 for each Looked After and Adopted child from Care, this is known as Pupil Premium Plus
- £1,320 for each primary aged pupil eligible for FSM's, or has been in the past 6 years

The Pupil Premium Grant is also awarded to

- **£300 for service children, identifying these children may need additional social and emotional support.**

How is Pupil Premium used?

The funding can be used for a range of interventions including: 1:1 tuition, help with costs of learning based interventions, teaching assistant staff, out of school programmes, equipment and school trips. To find out more about how this funding is spent simply log onto the school website and look for the Pupil Premium statement page or follow the link below.

<http://www.akps.org.uk/about/pupil-premium/>

This school Pupil Premium statement is updated annually and as a school we are constantly looking at ways in which we use this additional funding to meet the needs of our children. We also track the impact this funding is having on attainment, progress as well wider needs of our pupils such as their social and emotional development.

Who is eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium?

All children who are at school; and were under 19 at the start of the academic year; and are

claiming or have parents who are claiming:

- Income support; or
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance; or
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (this benefit was introduced from 27 October 2008); or

- Child Tax Credit, but who are **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190; or
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & asylum Act 1999; or
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Please Note:

- Families in receipt of Working Tax Credit are **not** eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium.
- From 1 May 2009 those entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, are entitled to Free School Meals.
- **The PP will only be awarded to your school if you apply for FSM, however, please note your child is not required to have the FSM if they prefer not to.**
- Children at a maintained Nursery must be attending both the morning and afternoon session on the same day to qualify.

When do I apply?

Please apply as soon as you become eligible under the above criteria. You will find the application form attached to this letter. Alternatively, you can access a new **confidential** online application form which parents and carers can complete in the privacy of their own homes. This can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals, a downloadable version is also available for those who would prefer to apply by post.

We will write to you to confirm entitlement has started.

Thank you for your continued support,
Miss K Redman
Pupil Premium lead