

November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We recognise that in the current climate some family financial situations have changed. With this in mind, we would like to remind all parents and carers about the Pupil Premium Grant which allows the school to access more funding for our school that will benefit your child directly.

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium -The Pupil Premium Grant is different from Free School Meals for Reception - Year 2 pupils.

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 scheme is called Universal Infant Free School Meals and provides every child in these year groups with a nutritious meal at lunch time.

The entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM) also continues to be available to all pupils (including infants) whose parents receive certain benefits and who are registered to receive one. However, in common with most schools, it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend our school fail to claim FSMs, even though they are entitled to them.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs, I am writing to all parents and carers to ask them, if they believe that they may be entitled to claim FSMs for their children and do not already do so, to make a claim.

Extra funding for our school

It is very important that if your child is entitled, you 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 support like extra tuition, teaching assistants or after school clubs. Your child will benefit directly from the additional funding; 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 as much funding as possible.

As I am sure you will agree, the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding.

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.
- **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.**

When do I apply?

Please apply as soon as you become eligible under the above criteria. The quickest and easiest way to apply is through a **confidential** online application form which parents and carers can complete in the privacy of their own homes. This can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals>. We will write to you to confirm entitlement has started.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs J Smith
Disadvantaged Learner's Lead

