

Friday 1st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Eligibility for extra Funding- Pupil Premium

Since September 2014 all children in Reception, and Years 1 and 2 regardless of family income have qualified for free school meals under the Universal Free school meals initiative. I am writing to provide you with information about extra funding that may be available for your child. If you receive benefits you may be able to claim Pupil Premium which may include free school meals for your child. School meals are a good way to make sure your child has a healthy meal every day. By eating well at lunchtime, children can remain focussed on their learning.

Even if you don't wish for your child to claim a free school meal as they may have a packed lunch, you can register so that the school can claim the extra Pupil Premium funding available for your child to support their education.

- The government has arranged this extra funding for Pupil Premium at £1,455 per pupil. (This rises to £2,530 for a child who has been looked after under local authority care)
- pupils who have parents serving in the armed forces receive £335

This extra funding is used by our school to support your child's education.

How does it work?

1. Check if you qualify – it is not just those who are unemployed, please look at the list below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, contact the school office and the staff will be very happy to help you.
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy school meal at lunchtime this will save you more than £400 a year and the school will get extra money to support your child's education.
4. If you don't want your child to have school meals, you should still register your child and the school will still get £1345 extra to support your child.

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of :

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related 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 - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you do not qualify for most benefits (also known as having 'no recourse to public funds'), your child may still be eligible for free school meals. Ask their school whether they're eligible.

So, do you qualify?

Please help us to claim the money that the government has made available to support your child.



Mrs Sarah Clowes Principal

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