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Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

As many parents will be aware, the school receives a substantial sum of money for groups of children in families with lower incomes. Whilst this fund is not intended to be allocated on an individual basis to each eligible child, it enables the school to offer additional resources and staffing to groups of children who all benefit in terms of progress in learning, confidence and well-being.

One factor which determines whether or not the school receives such funding is whether or not a child has been eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six calendar years. Some parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes may be unsure whether or not they need to apply given that their children receive a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, unless you are both eligible and apply for free school meals, the school will not receive this vital funding and may not be able to offer as much support for the children that need it most.

Free school meals

You are eligible for Free School Meals if you are responsible for a child (for example, you receive Child Benefit for them) who is still at school - including nursery children who attend full days and sixth form students - as long as you get one of these qualifying incomes:

- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Universal Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not 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 Infant Free School Meals

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to receive a free meal at lunchtime. For the school year starting in September 2016 this benefits children born between September 2009 and August 2012.

If your child is in this age group but is also eligible for free school meals because you receive one of the qualifying benefits we still need you to apply for these as normal. This is because, as referred to above, we receive a Pupil Premium payment (up to £1,300) for each eligible child.



If you are making a claim for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support then you don't need to make a separate claim for free school meals. You can request Free School Meals on the same form and your entitlement will be assessed at the same time.

You can apply for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support using the [online application form](#).

If you do not need to claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support and only want to claim Free School Meals then you should complete the [Free School Meals online claim form](#).

You should also make a claim online if you are already receiving Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support and one of your children starts full-time nursery or at a school maintained by the Local Authority.

You do not have to send in proof of your qualifying income as your claim will be verified with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Please note that we cannot provide free meals (other than for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes) to children until authorised by the Council.

Please help us to ensure that we can maximise our income so that your children and our school have a higher chance of success.

If you have any queries concerning this letter or need help to apply for free school meals then please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist.