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Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and Free School Meals (FSM)

Dear parent/carer,

Many of you will be aware that free school meals are offered to all Reception and Key Stage One children under the UIFSM arrangement. Separate to this scheme is the FSM scheme which has been in existence for many years. The two schemes are unconnected and a child in Reception, Year One or Year Two classes can receive a free school meal under the UIFSM scheme and also be eligible for FSM. Currently, Key Stage Two children can only be eligible under the FSM scheme.

The importance of the above is that we receive additional funding to help all children eligible for FSM (in all Key Stages) achieve their potential in school. This can help with employing additional staff to provide in-school small group and individual tutoring, purchase of kit, payment for school trips as well as various other things.

Eligibility

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income related Employment Support Allowance or the Guarantee part of Pension Credit or if you have an annual income (as assessed by the HM Revenue and Customs) of less than £16,190 each year (but not Working Tax Credit) you will be eligible for Free School Meals. Free School Meals could save you up to £380 per year for each child.

By applying for Free School Meals you could also trigger additional resources to be paid to us through the Pupil Premium. For every child registered, and entitled, we get £900 to help children from lower income families. If you don't want your child to have a school meal they can continue with packed lunches – as long as you qualify and are registered, we will still receive the additional funding.

How to apply

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 we will assess your entitlement at the same time. You can apply for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support from the Benefits homepage

<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/services/advicebenefitsgrants/benefits/> .

If you do not need to claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support and only want to claim Free School Meals then you should fill in an online claim form

<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/services/advicebenefitsgrants/benefits/freeschoolmeals/> .



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 school. Once you have completed the online form and submitted it, it will be sent straight to the Free School Meals Team to be processed. You do not have to send in proof of your qualifying income as we will verify your claim with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Should you have any queries regarding any of the above then please contact the school office and we will be happy to direct or advise you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Farrell', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Shane Farrell
School Business Manager