

Ref: RV/hw



20 May 2020

Dear Parents

Due to the current unprecedented times, I am sure that many families are feeling the impact financially with a reduced income and some of you not able to work. You may not have realised but you could now be eligible for Free School Meals and it is worth a phone call to check.

Free School Meals have been around for decades. In the past few years, a new title was given to them – Pupil Premium. Basically, in previous years, if you were a Free School Meal child, then this just meant that you would receive a free meal at school and that was it. However, this has dramatically changed over time.

Historic Free School Meal Children	Current Free School Meal Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Free meal each day in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Free meal each day in school.£15.00 Supermarket voucher for every child registered, every week during the COVID-19 outbreak.School receive £1,345 per child every year for 6 years (even if only on Free School Meals for a short period of time). This funding can be used to increase staffing support levels.Receive vouchers each year for school uniform.Financial support with school trips if needed.

As I am sure you can see, there are many advantages for both you and your child to being registered as a FSM child and I urge you to see if you are eligible. Please be assured that the children are never referred to as a Free School Meals child and this information is confidential and not shared with children. They are an invisible group of children within school.

Are you entitled to free school meals?

Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,000 per year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, not entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit "run on" – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work.



You can apply by phone to the Area Education Office on 01254 220747 (open Mon - Fri 9am – 5pm)

- It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings
- You will need to provide your Name, Date of Birth and National Insurance Number

They should be able to confirm if you are entitled over the telephone.

Please take the time to consider any changes to your circumstances which may now entitle you to Free School Meals.

Yours sincerely

Richard Varey
Headteacher