



2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Free School Meals and Pupil Premium**

Did you know that if you are in receipt of certain benefits your child may be entitled to **free school meals**, saving you up to £470 per year per child? When you apply for free school meals, you will also allow the school to receive additional funding called **Pupil Premium** of up to £1,320 per year per child.

**Children who are entitled to Pupil Premium are also eligible for other help in school including reduced contributions to some school trips and free school uniform.**

Please be assured that your child's eligibility to receive free school meals and Pupil Premium is information that is treated sensitively.

**Applying for free school meals** is simple and we encourage **all parents** to check and see if they qualify, just go to

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

and complete the quick and simple online application form. If you are unable to access the online form, we are able to provide a paper copy in school. Once an application has been submitted for a child, if the family do not qualify at that point, please continue to check for future entitlement throughout their school life as this may change. If you would like help applying on line please come and speak to us in the school office and we can help you.

It is not necessary for parents of children who currently receive free school meals to reapply. However, **applications do need to be made for younger siblings who are starting school.**

**Children in Key Stage 1** are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, however **you should still complete an application for free school meals** to determine whether they are entitled and therefore also qualify for Pupil Premium.

**If you child is moving to year 3 in September**, they will no longer be eligible to receive Universal Free School Meals and unless they are entitled to receive free school meals, you will need to pay for their meals. Please check to see if they are eligible for free school meals, **it could save you £470 per year!**

We urge all parents to check eligibility in order to ensure that all families and the school receive the benefits and funding which are available.

If you have any queries do come and ask us.

With kind regards,

The school Office Team



## Eligibility

To qualify for free school meals you need to be receiving one of the following:

- Universal Credit (up to £7,400 net earned income)
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop working altogether or start to work less than 16 hours per week)
- Child Tax Credit but no element of Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.

If eligible, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of year 6. This is even if your income rises above the threshold at any point during that time.