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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT: Free School Meals

Dear Parents / Carers,

Over the last few weeks we have received a number of enquiries about free school meals, this letter outlines who is entitled to free school meals and how to make an application for free school meals.

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in primary schools are entitled to 'universal' free school meals. This is **not** the same as 'Free School Meals' (FSM). Pupils that are eligible for free school meals receive additional funding called 'Pupil Premium.' In our school, if your child is entitled to Free School meals, you may also get financial support with other aspects of school life and not just the free school meal.

If your child is in or starting Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will automatically receive the universal free school meals which you don't have to apply for. However, if you think you are eligible for 'Free School Meals' then it is important that you apply so that you don't miss out on the Pupil Premium funding for your child. If you get any of the above benefits, please register your child so the school can benefit from the pupil premium.

Please note: Your child's 'universal' free school meals will stop at the end of Year 2, unless you receive the above qualifying benefits and you have already registered your child with us.

If you are entitled to free school meals now, even if at some point your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible for the actual free school meal, your child will receive the Pupil Premium funding for a further six years. However, you have to apply to see if you are eligible, as you will not automatically get the additional support.

For your child to qualify for free school meals you must get one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit and your household income after tax is less than £7,400 per year (not including any benefits you get)
- Child Tax Credit, as long as you are not getting Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of less than £16,190
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- The guarantee part of Pension Credit
- Asylum seeker support

Please note:

- Children aged between 16 and 18 who are getting Universal Credit in their own name can also get free school meals.
- Families who were already getting free school meals on 31 March 2019 can carry on getting them until 31 December 2023, even if the household's income changes.
- Only pupils who are registered for free school meals will receive shopping vouchers whilst school is closed due to COVID 19.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q) Who can register for pupil premium?

A) If you receive one of the above benefits, you can register your eligibility with the council so that the school can receive free school meals and also benefit from additional funding, called pupil premium. The pupil premium currently gives extra funding of £1320 per eligible pupil to the school your child attends.

Q) I have just lost my job/income and have claimed Universal Credit - will I be able to claim free school meals?

A) Most councils work out whether you can get free school meals based on your earnings in your previous assessment period for Universal Credit. This can mean that councils are not able to process your claim for free school meals until after you have received your first Universal Credit payment.

Q) How do I apply for free school meals?

A) Please go to <https://www.curdworthprimary.co.uk/our-information/pupil-premium/> and click the 'apply for free school meals' button to make an application. It only takes a few moments to complete a simple on line form which will tell you whether your child/children is/are eligible for free school meals. Please contact Mrs Teasdale on 07930172474 or via email on enquiry@curdworth.warwickshire.sch.uk if you need help with your application.

Q) How much will I receive support whilst children are not able to go to school due to COVID 19?

A) If you are entitled to free school meals, you will receive an e-voucher for £15 per week per child.

Q) What happens to the extra funding that schools receive for children who are entitled to free school meals (FSM)?

A) In our school if your child is entitled to FSM then we receive additional funding which we use in a variety of ways, including:-

Providing additional academic support for FSM children who need to boost progress or be challenged further

Providing financial support towards additional costs of education such as trips

Providing financial support to allow every FSM child one free (normally paid for) extra-curricular activity after school per week for the whole year.

Providing financial support towards uniform and equipment

Additional Educational needs resources

We hope you have found this information useful, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any support or further information.

Best wishes,



Lisa Dodd
Headteacher