

16 July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

All pupils in reception, year one or year two 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 get financial support with other aspects of school life not just the free school meal.

If you apply and are eligible even if at some point your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible for the actual free school meal – you will receive the Pupil Premium funding for six years. Which means all the additional supported listed at the top of this letter will continue for the next 6 years. (Or, whilst your child is at our school).

To see if your child is eligible, parents **have to** apply as you will not automatically get the additional support.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer. We could also offer your child some clubs/trips /activities at discounted rates in the future.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Financial support towards trips, clubs and music tuition
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions



Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, **you should still register** because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

Please follow the attached link <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/> or collect the application form from the school office. If you need support with your application or access to a computer, please don't hesitate to ask.

All new students (Nursery, Reception, Yr 3 and in year transfers) must register at the link above.



Additional support for parents

We appreciate that these are challenging times for all, but the Free School Meal and Pupil Premium system is there to support you and your child(ren).

But you must apply in order to access it.

To assist you, the school is running a special programme, which is for every student who signs up to Free School Meals for the first time, before 1 October 2021 (that is, a child who was not previously registered on our system as being Free School Meal eligible), **the school will purchase a school jacket for that student**, which normally costs £25.

We appreciate uniform can be expensive, so this is our way of assisting you with these various costs.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please do contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mr Navarro
School Business Manager

