

Dear Parents and Carers,

If your family has been financially affected by Covid-19, please find information below to see if your child is eligible for free school meals and additional Pupil Premium Funding.

The Government is providing additional funding to schools to help children in a range of circumstances. This funding is called a '**Pupil Premium**'.

Pupil Premium is a sum of money paid to schools on an annual basis to support the education of children who have been in receipt of:

- **Free school meals;**
- **Have parents who are members of the armed forces;**
- **In looked After Care or have been adopted.**

With this money we are able to fund additional teaching for pupils on a one-to-one or small group basis. We can also provide financial support to enhance opportunities within the curriculum for residential visits and extra curricula access to enhance learning. **If you think you are eligible please contact Mrs Gregory - Head Teacher or the school office to make sure your child doesn't miss out.**

### **Free School Meals**

#### **How does it work?**

First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list provided.

1. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, contact the Free School Meals Team at Stockton Borough Council on **01642 526605** who will help you to register.
2. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year), extra benefits and the school gets £1345 extra.
3. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue their lunchtime routine as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £1345 extra.
4. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

#### **Do you qualify?**

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- From 1 April 2018 the Government introduced new regulations for people claiming free schools meals who receive Universal Credit. The change means that if your net annual earnings are more than £7,400 you will not be eligible to claim free school meals.

- Pupils who received free school meals before 1 April 2018 and pupils who are assessed as eligible after 1 April 2018 will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the universal roll out period, which is expected to be March 2022. This applies even if they no longer meet the eligibility criteria at a subsequent point during the roll out period.
- At the end of the Universal Credit roll out period, any existing pupil who no longer meets the eligibility criteria will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary school.

### **Application Process**

Go to <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-economy/schools/school-meals/> and complete the online application or parents can apply for free school meals by ringing the Stockton Borough Council Contact Centre on **01642 526605**.

### **Children with parents who are members of the armed forces**

All children who have parents who are members of the armed forces are also entitled to pupil premium support. If your child is eligible in this category please inform the school office so that the information can be accurately recorded.

### **Children in Looked After Care/Adoption**

Children who are in the Care of the local Authority are also eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

### **Summary**

As a school we appreciate that this information is of a very sensitive nature and we should assure you that as for other pupil data items, the school will comply with their responsibilities and with respect to the Data Protection Act and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) when processing this information.

As a school we would like to attract this additional funding so we can further support your child. If you are unsure of your eligibility and have questions to ask please do not hesitate to contact me, as confidential meetings/phone calls can be arranged.

Kind regards,



Helen Gregory

Head Teacher