

10th October 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they now enjoy the 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' (UIFSM) introduced in September, this applies to everyone. However, it is worth noting that when pupils reach Year 3 they will no longer receive the free meals and most families will then be asked to pay for them (Currently £2.00 per day/£10.00 per week/£400.00 per school year).

As a school we receive funding from the government for all pupils who are entitled to continue to receive Free School Meals (FSM) after Year 2, this is called the '**Pupil Premium**'. (You can find out how we spend this money on our website in the Parents' Information pages.) This money is always spent on improving the opportunities for FSM pupils directly but it is also used to benefit all other pupils too. For example the new Early Years Outdoor Area and additional teaching sets in the Upper School (Yrs 4, 5, 6) have been part funded by the money provided by the government for 'Pupil Premium'. So everybody's children will gain!

I am writing to everyone to encourage any families which may be eligible for Pupil Premium/FSM to apply for it **NOW**. So that your child (if eligible) will continue to enjoy healthy hot meals at school as well as discounts on school uniform, music tuition, school trips, residential trips and before and after school club costs. The funding we receive for your child will help them have better opportunities but will also benefit all other pupils in school as well. **Please don't wait to apply** until your child reaches Year 3 as the school and your families and the school will be missing out. Parents of pupils in Reception should also apply immediately.

To apply is easy and takes very little time and could save you hundreds of pounds over the next 6 years.

If you receive any of the following support payments then your child may be entitled to receive the Pupil Premium/FSM funding options listed above and free school meals in Years 3-6:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State 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 - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Please note, children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals. For example children in care or the children of Armed Forces Personnel.

If you feel you may be entitled to this funding please complete the online application at the following link:

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/benefits/free-school-meals/>

If you would like to discuss anything in this letter with myself please feel free to contact me or contact the school office for further information. I will be available on Parents' Evening too.

Yours sincerely
Mr P Rawlings