

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware we will have a legal duty, from September 2014, to provide a free school lunch to all pupils in Foundation, Year1 and Year 2.

This change in policy is intended to:

- increase the number of pupils who eat a tasty and nutritious school lunch and develop positive eating habits
- improve pupils' health, attainment and behaviour, through better nutrition and socialisation
- ease pressure on family budgets
- support the economic viability of school meals

We would like to plan for this change as effectively as possible and would like to know whether;

- a) You are likely to be taking up the offer of a free school lunch, from September 2014 for your child when they move into Year1 , Year 2
- b) If you will also have children in Key Stage 2, whether you will be ordering a 'paid for' lunch for them

We appreciate that children may not have a school lunch every day but please indicate a 'yes' if you think they are likely to, at least twice a week. We will continue to offer a flexible system whereby children can opt in or out of school meals on a daily basis

Existing entitlements to free school meals for qualifying pupils will continue, based on the current free school meals eligibility criteria.

In England, children at key stages 2-4 in state funded schools are entitled to receive FSM if their parents or carers are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- *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 they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)*
- *Working Tax Credit run on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *During the initial roll out of the benefit, Universal Credit*

It is really important to your school that you sign up for free school meals if eligible, as this could also raise an extra £1300 per registered pupil for your child's school from central government, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, learning assistants or after school clubs.

Even if you do not wish your child to receive a free meal, we would encourage you to register so that your school receives as much funding as possible!

We are therefore very keen that all parents who are eligible for free school meals under the above criteria continue to apply for their Free School Meal Entitlement.

School Governors have agreed that, from September, all pupils for whom we receive FSM funding will have a credit of £50 applied to their parent pay accounts that can then be used to support payments for other school activities e.g. school trips, swimming, music lessons, after school clubs, residential trips etc.

Please could you return the slip below to the school office - by email or printed copy.
(Please delete as appropriate)

- **I will or I will not** be taking up the offer of a free school lunch for my child in **Year 1, Year 2**
- My older child/ren who will be in **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 (from September 2014)** are also likely to have a 'paid for' school lunch at least twice a week
- I am eligible for Free School Meals under the conditions listed and would like to receive further information on how to apply. **Yes** **No**

My name:

My child/ren's name(s):

Year group(s) from September 2014:

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with this vital piece of information .

Angela L Stanton *Head teacher*