



Dear Parents and Carers



As you are aware, all children in the Reception, Years 1 and 2 are eligible for free school meals as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative.

This level of support is incredibly important for all children and was introduced in 2014. However, this has led to fewer families being identified as eligible for **Pupil Premium funding** and receiving means tested **Free School Meals**.

Free School Meals can be used every day of the school year, beyond Year 2, in the same way you would order a school meal using the Aspens website. Children can also use them to provide a packed lunch for days when there might be a school trip. It is highly likely that many of our school families would be eligible for these free meals.

In addition to Free School Meals, schools receive additional funding per pupil in the form of Pupil Premium, if they fit given criteria, Free Schools Meals being one of the categories. Whilst this is not an individual allowance, schools are duty bound to spend the money in a way which impacts the learning and progress of eligible pupils. **The money is there to be granted but is only released when families apply and fit the criteria for Pupil Premium.** More information about how we spend this funding is available on our website.

In order to provide the best support for families we can check your eligibility for you with the local funding team. To do this, a parent/carers would need to provide their NI number and date of birth. We then submit this information in the same way you would, to check your eligibility. We would encourage you to add your details using the form below to allow us to check your eligibility.

Thank you very much indeed for your support with this, as it means we can continue to provide the best possible provision for you and your family.

Tiffany Pope

Deputy Headteacher and Pupil Premium Champion.

Please use this link to allow us to apply for Pupil Premium/ Free school Meals

<https://forms.gle/m6TmHgg37A1snoyZ7>