

July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Could your daughter be missing out on receiving Free School Meals (FSM)? Did you know that if your daughter is entitled to Free School Meals, she will also get extra financial help to pay for resources, trips and uniform?

The way the government decides how much money to give to schools means that both the school and your daughter could benefit if you successfully apply for Free School Meals, and we believe that there are families who are entitled but have not applied.

The extra funding the school receives for every child, who is entitled to Free School Meals, is used by us to offer all entitled students the following benefits:

- A free main meal each day – currently to the value of £2.35
- Free or discounted places on any essential subject related day trips
- Financial contributions towards subject related residential trips
- Complimentary essentials such as calculators, books and revision guides

In addition, between now and December 2020 **we are also offering successful new FSM applicants a voucher to the value of £25** to spend on Davison school uniform at our uniform supplier – Broadwater Sports.

The extra funding also enables us to help your child further by providing additional resources in lessons, such as intervention teachers, computers, and other educational equipment, giving everyone a better experience in school.

Our cashless biometric payment system used to purchase food in school gives complete anonymity to anyone in receipt of free school meals when they pay. If your daughter is eligible she just scans her finger at the till when purchasing food and the money will be deducted automatically from her £2.35 daily allowance. However, she does not actually have to spend her free school meal allowance or use the Diner at all if she prefers not to, but she will still have access to all the other benefits listed above.

Applying for Free School Meals is easy. If you receive any of the benefits listed on the reverse of this letter you are eligible for Free School Meals and can apply on line by going to:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/free-school-meals-online-application/>

or by completing the form attached. Alternatively, we will be pleased to help you complete the form and photocopy your documents - please telephone or come into school and speak to Rachel Parnell or Louise Corcoran (Tel: 01903 233835) in reception who can talk you through the steps in confidence. Once your entitlement has been approved by WSCC, please send a copy of the letter to us to claim your £25 uniform voucher. If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mr Chris Keating
Headteacher

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Free school meals are available to students whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition, the following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals as follows:

- From 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants will continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time.
- In addition, any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period.
- Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

The Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2022.