Dear Parents and Carers

Did you know … just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money to support them?

The Government is giving money to schools to help **children** from **lower income families**; children who have been **adopted from care;** and children from families of **armed service personnel,** do their very best. This funding is called the ‘Pupil Premium’.

**PLEASE REGISTER TO MAKE SURE THE SCHOOL DOES NOT MISS OUT ON THIS EXTRA FUNDING**

**How does it work?**

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so follow this link <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/are-you-eligible-for-free-school-meals/>
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, please complete the FSM application form by clicking on the link below or collecting a form from reception in school.
3. By registering, your child will have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime.
4. Even if your child does not want to have a school meal every day, it is important that you register so that they always have the opportunity to.

**By registering, the school also gets additional funding to support your child.**

The Pupil Premium is not used to pay for school meals. Schools use the funding to improve the progress and attainment of pupils who are eligible. You will find more information about how we use our pupil premium funding on our website.

**No one will know you have registered, and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.** Mrs Plant in the office will be happy to help you with your application. They can do this privately, away from the school office or by telephone or email if this would be more convenient.

You can apply online here <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/> or ask at the office for an application form.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kim Stokes

Executive Headteacher

**DO YOU QUALIFY? COME AND TALK TO US IF YOU’RE NOT SURE.**

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these 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, pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals while universal credit is being rolled out. Universal credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2022.

For up to date information please follow the link:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/are-you-eligible-for-free-school-meals/>

**The school receives extra income for any children:**

* Registered for Free School Meals
* Registered with the school as being adopted from care
* Registered with the school as a service child

The more eligible pupils that are registered for free school meals, the more funding our school receives, directly benefiting your child. **Registering does not mean your child has to take up free school meals if they don’t want to.** No other pupils will be aware of the fact your child is registered for free school meals.

**You should still register for free school meals even if:**

* Your child is in **Year Reception, 1 or 2** and already receives infant free school meals. The **school does not receive Pupil Premium** funding for Year 1 or Year 2 children **unless you register** separately.
* You would rather your child had a different meal, such as a **packed** **lunch**.

**IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER, THE SCHOOL DOES NOT RECEIVE THE FUNDING.**