

Dear Parents

Pupil Premium/Free School Meals

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'. Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that we get extra funding to use in any way we choose to improve the quality of the education that we provide for your child. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and therefore entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) scheme, if you qualify for Pupil Premium, we will receive extra funding from the Government.

Please note that once children start in year 3 there is a charge per term for hot school meals, therefore if you think you qualify, please complete the attached forms and, if eligible, your child will continue to enjoy a free meal.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, please complete the application on
The "Dorset for You" website by following the link below.
www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/free-school-meals or alternatively please complete the attached form
and return to the school office.
If you require any assistance with the application process, please see the school office.
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal and we will receive extra money.
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets extra money.

Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- 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 State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit