

5 January 2011

Dear Parent

Re: Start of the new term and important information on free school meal entitlement

Happy New Year, I hope you and your family enjoyed the Christmas holiday. 2011 promises to be a very busy year and hopefully, as a school community, will be one of our happiest and most successful yet. We look forward to sharing with you key information and highlights as we progress throughout the term both via our web site and our 'Parent eContact' facility. At this stage, however, I would like to draw to your attention an important matter relating to free school meal entitlement.

You will no doubt be aware that the new national government is making changes to how schools are funded. We are advised that although the national budget will remain the same, distribution of this money will change. In other words, individual schools are not guaranteed the same amount of money because other factors will be considered when allocations are being made. In the national press there has been much coverage about 'Pupil Premium'. This will be a sum of money allocated to a school to support the learning and achievement of a child receiving free school meals.

The reason I am drawing this to your attention, is that I am aware that we have some families who are entitled to free school meals but who do not claim. Also, sadly, I know that in the current economic climate, there may be changes in family circumstances. Due to the funding changes and the benefit of receiving all that an individual is entitled to, I would urge all families to consider whether or not they are entitled to free school meals for their children and if so, apply to receive this support. To do so will support family budgets and the school budget.

The process of applying is incredibly straight forward. The criteria for becoming eligible to apply are also very clear. I attach the key information you require to:

- a) decide if you can draw on this support
- and*
- b) make application

It would be most helpful to have all returns from you by Friday 14 January if you wish to immediately take up this opportunity. Going forward, if at any stage your family circumstances change, then you can get in contact and apply at that time.

Please do not hesitate to be in contact if you would like some more information. If you are entitled to claim, then please do seriously consider taking up this right.

I hope this is helpful to you.

Very best wishes



Kathleen M. Higgins
Headteacher