

Parents and Carers,

You may have heard a lot about Pupil Premium. It is given to us in April of every year as a boost for those children whose parents currently claim Free School Meals and those families that have claimed it in the last 6 years. This academic year it will be £1,320 per child and children who are entitled to this funding can benefit from financial support with PE kits, school trips/WOW events and school uniform. Pupil premium has also been used to provide additional adult support, advice from specialists, counselling support and the purchase of additional resources.

If you wish to see how this funding has been spent more fully in the last academic year, please check our website at [www.lancotschool.co.uk](http://www.lancotschool.co.uk). Currently, infant school children get universal free school meals. This is different from eligibility for free school meals which leads to pupil premium and, unless registered, this money is lost from our budget. We have noticed a sharp decline in families of Year 1 and 2 children registering for free school meals since the introduction of universal free school meals. I therefore urge families to consider whether they meet the criteria below and telephoning to register.

#### Eligibility:

- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit..
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit).

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on **0300 300 8306**. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner.
- Dates of birth for your children.



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- If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

If you would like help to complete this action, please come in to see Mrs Robertson-Forge and she will assist you.

We will always spend our pupil premium budget on those pupils who attend our school and, by using a vast majority of the money in supporting learning we feel that we are using the money wisely for its intended purpose. Pupil Premium has been a valuable boost for us and we all hope that it continues for years to come, even if all children in Reception and in years 1 and 2 now have a free hot meal!

**Claire Probert**  
Headteacher

