



September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

You may be aware that the government is currently allocating additional funding to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium'. One of the criteria used to calculate this additional funding is the number of pupils at a school who receive Free School Meals (FSMs). In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend Bulmershe fail to claim FSMs, even though they are entitled to them.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs I am writing to all parents and carers to ask them, if they believe that they may be entitled to claim FSMs for their children and do not already do so, to make a claim. As I am sure you will agree the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding. Not only that, our catering team provides an excellent range of healthy lunch options that are enjoyed daily by a significant number of our pupils. Your child may well be able to access these free of charge.

If you are eligible for and claim FSMs, you will also be provided with other services by the school, such as:

- Financial support for Educational Trips
- Access to additional support for your child's learning and/or well-being

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State 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 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

FSM forms are available on the school website and also at reception, or by contacting Wokingham borough council. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact the school and ask for Mrs Keeley or myself.

Yours sincerely

Richard Staton
Assistant Headteacher