

May 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Every pupil in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is eligible to receive an infant free school meal (IFSM). I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for your child to enjoy a healthy, balanced and nutritious meal every day.

I want to explain the difference between Infant Free School Meals (IFSM) and Free School Meals (FSM) and, importantly, to ask you to register for FSM so that the school can continue to receive extra funding through the Pupil Premium, even if your child is entitled to an infant free meal. Pupils who are in key stage 2 (Years 3-6), will also be eligible for the school's offer shown below, but only if parents register for FSM. The school receives extra valuable funding for each child registered for free school meals, which enables us to explore supplementary learning experiences for our children, such as Forest School and sports mentoring, and to fund the staff that provide these opportunities. In addition to a free meal, the school will offer each **registered** child:

- £100 credit which can be spent at any time throughout the current academic year. This can be used towards the cost of educational trips, residential visits, breakfast club, afterschool club, Hotshots, Flexd and Kickboxing.
- Consideration of financial support from The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation, which may include food vouchers/hampers <https://mccarthydixon.org.uk/>

This additional money is paid to us by the local authority for every child whose parent(s) is receiving one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (annual net 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 or income-based 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)

If parents do not apply the school will not receive the Pupil Premium funding.

Registering is really quick and easy; if you think you qualify, you will need to apply online by visiting West Northamptonshire Council's website using the following link:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium>

If you do not have access to a computer to submit an application, please see Mrs Bayliss or Mrs Robinson in the school office who will be more than happy to help you.

Once again, I would stress the importance of registering for free school meals, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 or your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, but is eligible for free school meals, so that the school receives as much funding as possible.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming, so please talk to us about registering your child today.

Natalie James
Headteacher