

Courthill Infant School

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17th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Free School Meal Eligibility and School Holiday Food Vouchers

We are aware that many households are currently experiencing challenges with the rise in the cost of living. If you are facing a change in circumstances, your child may now be entitled to additional support from BCP Council. The following information explains more about Pupil Premium funding, free school meal eligibility and school holiday food vouchers

Pupil Premium Grant / Free School Meals

The Pupil Premium Grant is an allocation of additional funding provided to schools to support specific groups of children. These include children who are entitled to free school meals, those looked after by the local authority and the children of armed service personnel. At Courthill, we receive £1,455 of additional funding for every eligible child who is registered for free school meals. **Please be aware that Pupil Premium is different from Universal Free School Meals.**

How can I check if I am eligible?

If you are not sure whether you are entitled to claim this funding, further information about eligibility and application can be found on BCP's website (see electronic version of letter for direct link). **Alternatively, please complete the form that is attached to this letter and return it to the school office and we will send it off for you.**

Free school meal entitlement - What you need to know

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

- 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit. You must also 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 - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).



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If you meet the criteria and your child is eligible, the school will receive Pupil Premium funding to support your child for 6 years following your application for free school meals. The funds are paid directly to the school to support with your child's education. It is the school's decision on how this funding is used to best support the eligible children in reaching their full potential. Examples of how this additional funding may be utilised to support your child's education include:

- Discounted school trips
- Free school jumper and bookbag
- Additional class support to accelerate children's academic progress - where appropriate
- Intervention support to develop self-esteem, self-confidence and social/emotional skills - where appropriate
- Holiday activity and food programmes
- Access to a free school run extra curricula club each year

School Holiday Food Vouchers

Children who are eligible for free school meals are also able to access a weekly supermarket food voucher during the school holidays. This is worth £15 per week, per eligible child. These vouchers are provided by the Government Household Support Fund, operated by BCP Council in the school holidays, which we distribute to you via email.

If you think you are eligible and you need any assistance in applying or completing the form, please see the staff in the school office and they will help you.

Yours sincerely

Miss Lane
Pupil Premium Lead