



Dear Parents/Carers,

Owing to recent changes in Government legislation, we wanted to clarify for parents the funding arrangements around "free school meals".

1) UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS (UIFSM)

From September 2014 **all children** who are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in a state-funded school will be offered a free school meal.

2) PUPIL PREMIUM FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) - IMPORTANT!

This is additional funding available (£1,300 per child) from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed below.

It is therefore important to sign up for free school meals (Pupil Premium), even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 so that your child's school receives as much funding as possible.

The more parents that take up their entitlement to free school meals (Pupil Premium) for their children, the more funds Caversham Primary will receive to invest in your child's education.

This extra money, currently totalling £21k, is used to fund a range of educational opportunities for pupils, clubs, visits, support staff, play therapy, Reading Recovery to name a few.

WELFARE BENEFITS CREATING PUPIL PREMIUM ELIGIBILITY:

1. Income Support
2. Income based Jobseekers Allowance
3. Income related Employment and Support Allowance
4. Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
5. The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
6. Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
7. Working Tax Credit run on
8. Universal Credit

In order to qualify for Pupil Premium (FSM) you need to complete an application form termly which is available from the school office. Please can we urge you to complete this form if you think you might be eligible.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Perry

Headteacher



APPLICATION FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please complete this form only if you are eligible under the categories listed overleaf and your child attends a Reading school.

PART A

Please provide the following information (PRINT)

Full Name of Claimant: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)											
Address:											
Postcode:						Telephone:					
National Insurance Number:						Date of Birth: / /					
NASS Reference Number:											

Children for whom you are claiming

Surname	Other Names	M/F	Date of Birth	School Attending	Relationship to Child
			/ /		
			/ /		
			/ /		
			/ /		
			/ /		

Declaration by Claimant

I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for free school meals and will contact other sources as allowed by law to verify my initial, and ongoing, entitlement.

Signature:	Date:
------------	-------

DATA SECURITY

Personal data provided on this form may be held on a computer and is therefore subject to the Data Protection Act 1998. It will only be used for the intended purpose i.e. to determine eligibility for FSM.

Once you have completed the form please return it to YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL as soon as possible. Free school meals cannot be provided until the school has received the form and verified your eligibility.

PART B - to be completed by School

Declaration by School (Not required by schools using the ECS)

I confirm that I have seen proof that the applicant is currently in receipt of Income Support or Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Tax Credit whose annual taxable income (as assessed by Inland Revenue) does not exceed £16,190 and are not in receipt of Working Tax Credit, or are in receipt of Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (copy attached)

Signature:	Name:	Position held:	Date:
------------	-------	----------------	-------

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTITLEMENT

If you are in receipt of any of the following you will be entitled to Free School Meals for you child:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- *Note: If you are in receipt of Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment ceases, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your child/children are entitled to free school meals.*

CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Your application may be checked using The Department for Education Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service using the information you have provided in Part A of this form. The results will be a yes/no confirmation and your child's school will be informed of this.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

You may be requested by the school to provide documentary proof of entitlement.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE

You must inform the school immediately of any change in your benefit entitlement.

Once you have completed the form please return it to YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL as soon as possible. Free school meals cannot be provided until the school has received the form and verified your eligibility.