

Dear Parents and Carers

If your child is eligible for FSM, we want to encourage you to register them.

Children in reception, year 1 or year 2 get free school meals anyway through a different scheme. But if they are eligible for free school meals, we still really want you to register – see why below.

Why register for free school meals?

Children who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches.

But registering them is still important because for every child registered for free school meals in the 2024/25 and 2025/26 academic years, the school gets an extra **£1,480 (in 2024/25) and £1,515 (in 2025/26)** through 'pupil premium' funding.

Every child registered for free school meals makes a big difference to the school.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

If you receive these benefits, your child may be eligible:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) if you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - but not if you receive Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, if your earned income after tax is £616.67 per month (£7,400 per year) or less

How do I register?

Parents need to register on the West Sussex Parent Portal. We have attached information from West Sussex on how to do this.

If your child qualifies for Free School Meals you would still need to book in the usual way through ParentPay, but would not be charged.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium is additional funding for schools for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals (FSM)
- Have been registered for FSM at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

If you need any advice or computer help, please speak confidentially to Mrs Webster (Office Manager) or to Mrs Russell (Assistant Head)

Kind regards
School Office

