

St. Werburgh's C. E. (A) Primary School

Love to learn, Love God, Love one another

Tuesday, 24rd March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - ELIGIBILITY AND HOW TO APPLY

We hope that you and your family are well.

As you know, some children are eligible for **Free School Meals**, depending upon a number of factors. This provision will continue during this period of school closure.

To clarify the situation: all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive a daily school meal as part of the Government's 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' initiative. <u>This is different to 'Free School Meals'</u>.

Being in receipt of 'Free School Meals', also currently enables school to provide additional benefits for children in school, including additional support. To see if your child is eligible for 'Free School Meals' please see the information below, or visit: <u>https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-</u> <u>benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Overview.aspx</u> and follow the on-screen instructions.

An outline of the entitlement criteria:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit **but not** Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more that £16,190. **Please note:** anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

If a child is already registered for and receiving free school meals you do not need to make a new claim.

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www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk



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Should your application be successful, school will then be notified directly. Please note that it is not a lengthy process and school are usually notified of successful applications within a few days. If you are eligible, please apply, it can help.

Further information can also be found on the school website: http://www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk/st-werburghs/our-school/pupil-premium/

Once agreed, this entitlement will remain in place during term time until circumstances change. During this unprecedented period, it is our intention to also offer access to a lunch for these children on school days.

Please continue to look after yourself and your loved ones.

The St. Werburgh's team

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