

Water Primary School

Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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Dear Families

IMPORTANT - Recent Government Announcement regarding change in eligibility for pupil premium and free school meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we want to encourage you to register them. It will literally take you 3 minutes to check – just complete the e-form in the link on the next page.

Children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 get free school meals already 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.

However, registering them is still important because for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets an extra **£1,480** through 'pupil premium' funding. Every child registered for free school meals makes a big difference to the school budget.

More information available about pupil premium on our website at <https://www.water.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=23> Here you can see what we spent it on in the last academic year and how it will be spent this year. For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:-

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

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



- Universal Credit, if your earned income after tax is £616.67 per month (£7,400 per year) or less.
- 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
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Your child may also get free school meals if you receive any of these benefits and your child is younger than the compulsory age for starting school **and** in full-time education.

How do I register?

To register, you simply need to click on the link below and complete the e-form. If you are eligible school will be informed and you will receive a letter from Lancashire County Council.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

For information on registering for free school meals if you are a household with no recourse to public funds, see our FAQs on the following pages.

More information

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please pop in to see me at the school office.

You can also find more information at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Yours faithfully
Mrs A Graham
Office Manager

