

11.7.24

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Free School Meals/Pupil Premium (for Years Rec to 6)**

Last year, to help with the cost of living crisis, the Mayor of London announced that all primary school children would be entitled to receive a school meal for the academic year 2023/2024, from September 2023 to July 2024, at no cost to their parents or carer. **We are pleased to inform you that the scheme has been extended for another year, from September 2024 to July 2025.**

Children will automatically receive a school meal. However, if you receive one of the benefits listed below, it is important to register for a free school meal. If your child is eligible for 'benefit assessed' free school meals, the school will receive additional funding called 'Pupil Premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

#### **Free school meals and pupil premium**

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. The school will receive an extra £1,480 (for the 2024/2025 financial year) from the government for every eligible child who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education the school offers.

At Grange Park we have previously used pupil premium funding to pay for educational trips and subsidise the residential trips in Year 5 and Year 6. We also provide one free enrichment club per year for children who are eligible for pupil premium. Other benefits for children who qualify for free school meals include HAF Programme (Half-term Activity Vouchers)

#### **Who is eligible for free school meals?**

**Children will be eligible for free school meals if their parent or carer receives one of the following benefits:**

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of **no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)**)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (**provided you do not also receive Working Tax Credit**) and have an annual gross income of no more than 16,190.
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

#### **Can my child still bring a packed lunch?**

Yes, they can. If you prefer your child to have a packed lunch, they can. However, you should still register because if you are eligible the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways. NB. A cash alternative is not available for those pupils not taking a free school meal.

#### **Your child may be eligible for free school meal protection up until Year 6 in primary school.**

**If you receive one of the benefits listed above and qualify, your child's free school meal entitlement will be protected until the end of primary school, even if your circumstances change.** Eligibility for free school meals changed on 1 April 2018, whilst Universal Credit is being rolled out to replace existing benefits. The roll out period is

scheduled to end next year, in March 2025. After this date, even if your circumstances have changed, your child will keep their free school meal entitlement until the end of their current phase of education, i.e., primary school.

**Children that are adopted or leave care under a Special Guardianship Order or a Child Arrangement Order.** From April 2014, schools in England can receive the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005. Schools can also claim for children who left care under a Child Arrangement Order on or after 14 October 1991. It is up to those with parental responsibility to decide if they wish the school to know whether their child is adopted or is under a special guardianship order or residence order. If you would like to enable us to claim this premium, you will need to inform us about your child and provide supporting evidence, for example, provide the original Adoption (Court) Order. You need to self declare as soon as possible to enable us to claim.

#### **Children who have been looked after for 1 day or more**

Additional pupil premium funding is available to schools for children who have been in care for 1 day or more. The Local Authority provides this information to the Department for Education.

#### **The Service Premium gives schools extra funding to support children and young people with parents in the armed forces.**

Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- One of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years
- One of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS).

If your child meets one of the above Service Premium criteria please let us know as this will enable us to claim this additional funding. You need to self declare as soon as possible to enable us to claim.

#### **How do I register for Free School Meals?**

To register, please complete the attached application form and return to the school office who will scan the form to the Local Authority on your behalf. Or you can scan the form and email it directly to:

[freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk)

If your application is successful, you will be notified within 10 working days of receipt. For more information about the Pupil Premium grant please go to our website, which contains details of how the Pupil Premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

If you feel you may be eligible for the service premium you will need to email the school office with evidence so that we can initiate the claim.

Please help us to maximise the amount of Pupil Premium the school receives by getting in touch with the school office ASAP if you feel your child meets any of the above criteria.

Yours sincerely

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