



19<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Universal Infant Free School Meals and Pupil Premium**

You may be aware that the Government has announced that from September 2014 children who will be in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 shall be entitled to a free school meal. The Government estimate that this will save families £400 per child for every year in the infants.

We are very keen in school to have as many children as possible eating our delicious school meals which are freshly prepared each day by our kitchen staff. It may present us with certain challenges as the number of children currently having school meals increases however we are well underway with preparations for these changes and have already begun to buy in more equipment in readiness to help our kitchen cope with expected increase in demand for hot meals.

You may also be aware that the government currently allocates additional funding to schools in the form of 'Pupil Premium'. The main criteria used by the Government to calculate this additional funding (currently £953 per pupil) is the number of children at the school who receive Free School Meals. In common with most schools it is likely that a few parent/carers whose children attend Burham CE Primary School may not claim Free School Meals, even though they are entitled to them. Claiming Pupil Premium from the next academic year will be more difficult for us as all Infant children from September 2014 will be entitled to a Free School Meal.

I am therefore writing to **ALL** parents and carers to ask them that if you believe you may be entitled to claim Free School Meals for your child/children and do not already do so, please make a claim – even if it is your preferred wish that you supply your child with a packed lunch each day. I am sure you will agree that the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding.

If you're eligible for and claim Free School Meals you may also be provided with other services by the school, such as:

- Financial support for Educational Trips
- Free attendance to some paid-for-clubs
- Access to additional support for your child's learning and/or well-being

In order to claim Free School Meals a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance

- Child Tax Credit (but NO Working Tax Credit is being received by the claimant or his/her partner AND the combined annual income as assessed by HMIR on a TC602 form is not above £16,190)
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit
- Asylum Seeker under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are not currently in receipt of Free School Meals and think that you may be eligible to apply please visit the following website for more information and how to apply:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

This link is also available on our school website: [www.burham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.burham.kent.sch.uk) (just follow the link from the 'School Information' tab on the left hand menu bar and click on 'Free School Meals') plus there are hard copies of the forms available from outside the school office. Please note that any claim for free meals cannot be backdated.

In the meantime, if you are the parent/carer in our current Year R or Year 1 it would be really helpful to have a good idea of how many families are likely to take up the free school meal offer for their infant child to enable us to see how this might impact on our current numbers. We would therefore be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete the slip below which will give us an indication of the numbers we could expect in September. You may wish to refer to our current menu and a copy of this can be either found in the entrance area outside of the school office or on our school website.

For further information on this Government initiative you may wish to look at the following link: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-letter-about-universal-infant-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-letter-about-universal-infant-free-school-meals)

We thank you for your help and support and would be grateful if you could return the attached slip by the end of June. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you have any query with the above.

Yours sincerely

Miss Grima

.....

**Universal Infant Free School Meals (Please tick and add numbers where appropriate)**

1. In September 2014 I will have .....child/ren attending Year R, Year 1, Year 2
2. I would like .....(please enter name(s) to have a free school meal EVERY DAY
3. I would like .....(please enter name(s) to have a free school meal on.....(please list likely days)
4. I will NOT be taking up the offer of a free school meal.

We have not received confirmation for the cost of paid school meals in September yet but anticipate this may rise to £2.30 per day for all children in Key Stage 2 (Juniors).