



Acting Headteacher: **Mrs Claudia Thiele** BEd Hons NPQSL, NPQH

June 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Re: Pupil premium and free school meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces
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At Lonsdale, we get an extra £1,455 (for primary schools)/£1,035 (for secondary schools) for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- 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
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Your child might also be eligible if you're in a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to a maximum income threshold. This is for children of:

- British National (Overseas) passport holders
- Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

Lonsdale School, Brittain Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 8UT
 Telephone: 01438 726999, email: admin@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk
www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk



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Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Please note, if your child is due to transition to year 3 from September, you will need to re-apply for Free School Meals.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I apply?

You can apply by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

If you require support in completing the application, please contact the Admin Office who can complete the application on your behalf. In order for the Admin team to complete this application, they will require your National Insurance number and consent.

Please advise the school as soon as you have made a successful claim so that we can start claiming the additional funding for your son/daughter without delay.

More information

For more information about pupil premium 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 have any questions or specific concerns, please contact our Admin Team.

With kind regards,

Mrs Claudia Thiele
Acting Headteacher

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