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9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## **RAISE EXTRA FUNDS FOR SCHOOL!**

Is your child eligible for free school meals?

The rising cost of living means everyone could use a bit of help. If you are unemployed or on benefits then you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. This would not only help you: it would help the school too. Schools are given additional funding by the Government for every child who gets free school meals. We want to obtain as much funding as possible so that we can improve education for all students.

We are aware there are children who attend this school who are entitled to free school meals but do not realise it. We are also aware that some parents choose not to take up the entitlement to a free school meal.

The pupil premium means that even if you do not wish to access a free daily meal and your child prefers a packed lunch made at home, applying will mean that this school will receive further funding. Children can remain on packed lunches if you wish.

If you think your family could qualify the process is now simple. Parents should follow this link, complete the relevant information and submit the application. School are no longer able to send the form off on your behalf.

<http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx#>

Also due to the introduction of Universal Credit once you qualify for free school meals your entitlement will remain in place even if your circumstances change until the roll out of Universal Credit is complete.

We want to make sure that we are providing all children with the best education and support we can. With increasingly tight school budgets this is one way parents can help. Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,385 for our school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- 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 guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)



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- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16190

This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

Even though children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receive a Universal Free School Meal you can still apply and if your application is successful you may keep your entitlement when your child moves into year 3.

Another benefit to Parents is that if your application is successful, for as long as the Government continue to fund it, every school holiday you will receive £15 per child per week in supermarket vouchers so that you can provide your child with meals throughout the holidays.

Remember every successful application could earn the school an extra £1385.

Many thanks for your support.

Kind regards,

Catherine Parr  
**School Business Manager**