

## **Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?**

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**I would like to remind all parents who are eligible to register for Free School Meals to do so as soon as possible so both the school and your child can benefit from the extra resources available.**

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

**For every child registered our school gets £900 this year, rising to £1300 next year.**

As well as providing a Healthy Free School Meal the school uses this money to:

- Carefully track and monitor your child's learning
- Provide additional teaching assistant support
- 1:1 support where necessary to ensure your child is meeting age related expectations
- Pay for or subsidise school trips to ensure the school is addressing any inequalities

### **Important:**

If your eligibility for Free School Meals stops the school continues to receive the Pupil Premium for a further 6 Years (This is called 'Ever6'). Your child will continue to receive all the Pupil Premium benefits (apart from Free School Meals) whilst at Mrs Ethelston's or St Andrew's, and the Pupil Premium will follow them to any school they progress to within the 6 years. Note – the local secondary schools all have their own individual schemes for administering the Pupil Premium and the benefits for your child will vary. Please register as soon as you become eligible to make sure your child doesn't miss out.

**Even if you are only eligible for Free School Meals for a few weeks and you don't want the meals – then please still apply as your child will benefit for the next 6 years!**

A separate letter will be sent to all the Parents whose children currently are, or have been, entitled to Free School Meals in the past 6 years.

Details of how we spent the Pupil Premium Grant last year and how we intend to spend it this year are available on our website at <http://www.acornfederation.co.uk/pupil-premium>

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Miller  
School Business Manager.

Mrs Ethelston's C of E Primary, Pound Lane, Uplyme, Lyme Regis DT7 3TT Tel: 01297 442210  
St. Andrew's C of E Primary and Early Years Centre, Chardstock, Axminster, Devon, EX13 7BJ Tel. 01460 220534

[admin@acornfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@acornfederation.co.uk)

[www.acornfederation.co.uk](http://www.acornfederation.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Andrea Rice BEd (Hons)



Mrs Ethelston's  
CC Primary School

## Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

## How to Apply.

Free School Meals are administered by Devon County Council (DCC) for all Devon maintained schools and you should apply to Devon if your child(ren) are attending a Devon school.

The claimant in receipt of the qualifying benefit will need to apply:

- Phone **0845 155 1019** with your National Insurance Number, date of birth, name and child's details and an eligibility check can be carried out using the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking System, this will confirm if your details have been matched or not. It will not tell us what benefits you are in receipt of, dates when a benefit was awarded or say how much you receive
- Apply online by downloading an application form <http://www.devon.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsform.pdf> (862KB - pdf help) and emailing it to the Free School Meals Team at [freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk)
- Once we have received your application, we will enter your details onto the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking System and it will tell us if you are entitled or not.
- We will then inform your child's school and send you a letter with our decision, usually within 5-10 working days.
- If it states **AUTHORISED**: we will inform the school and your child will be able to receive Free School Meals.
- If it states **NOT AUTHORISED**: we will inform the school and if you still believe you are entitled, please call 0845 155 1019 for advice. We may need you to send us evidence that you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
- You no longer have to reapply! Once we have your details on record we will carry out regular checks to see whether you are still entitled.

When you apply, you won't need to provide us with any evidence of your benefit, we can check your eligibility status for you.

**No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.**

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