



Be the best you can be

Christleton Primary School

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Tuesday 16th April 2024

Financial Support for Eligible Families

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the start of a new term, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the financial support available to eligible families in Cheshire West.

Pupils of parents who are on low income, or who are in receipt of certain benefits, are entitled to Free School meals (FSM), irrelevant of what year group they are currently in. The Pupil Premium funding that the school receives for children who qualify for FSM is used in many ways: from supporting children via targeted academic support, wider support for emotional well-being and confidence, through to supporting families with the funding of school trips and residential experiences.

This level of support continues for six years. If your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will receive a free school meal under the government's Universal Free School Meal scheme.

This is a different scheme and only entitles your child to a free school meal during these years. It is therefore important that you apply for FSM if you feel your child is eligible, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receiving a free school meal.

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire West if you receive one 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 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)
- ✓ Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household earnings must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



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If you believe you may qualify, you can apply for Free School Meals online via the Cheshire West and Chester website. Cheshire West and Chester website link:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

If you have any questions, please contact the school office for further information.

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell



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