

RP/FP2/Ltrs2015/FSM

June 2015

Dear Parent/ Carer

Is your child Eligible for Free School Meals? It could save you over £40 a month!

Due to the current financial climate many people's family circumstances have changed. I feel that it is important to make you aware of the following:

Parents do not have to pay for school lunches if they receive any of the following:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Working Tax Credit 'run on' the payment someone may receive for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Children who receive any of the qualifying benefits listed above in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals.

To find out more or to apply go to: http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/37/school-catering/168/free school meals or visit our website (http://finhampark.co.uk/) where there is a link.

Some frequently asked questions:

- 1. Would everyone know my child is having free school meals? No. Due to the biometric system of purchasing food money is credited to students' accounts the same as students that don't have free school meals.
- 2. Can my child buy the same food as those who pay? Yes. Your child can have free choice to buy a healthy balanced meal.
- **3.** How much would my child receive per day? £2.50 is for use at lunch only (any additional purchases at breakfast/break will need to be funded by the parent/carer).
- 4. Can I top up this amount with extra money? Yes. Money can be paid onto your child's account by using parent pay via our website (https://www.parentpay.com)

If you have any questions regarding free school meals please contact Coventry City Council directly on 024 76831552.

As well as receiving free school meals, the school will receive £460 'pupil premium'. This money will be used to ensure your child achieves to their best ability.

Yours sincerely

Russell Plester

Headteacher Designate