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Dear Parent/Carer,

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals', or has been eligible for this at any point in the last 6 years, school will receive additional funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school. Please read this letter and consider getting in touch with school or the Local Authority if you think you may be eligible – we do not automatically get this funding – think of the opportunities we could provide your children with additional money!

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding is additional money from the government that is provided to schools to help pupils to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation.

Primary schools get an extra £1,480 – these figures are for the 2024/25 financial year, 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.

Previously, we have used pupil premium funding to provide:

- Educational resources to improve teaching and learning
- Academic interventions to help children to 'catch-up'
- Wellbeing and self-esteem interventions to help with pastoral issues

We also use pupil premium funding to pay for our very popular Summer School, which enables us to spend a week during the Summer Holidays taking children on different trips and visits that they may not normally experience, such as to the Lake District, to museums and on adventure days. This is available only to children in receipt of pupil premium funding.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit, provided the parents are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax credit
- Universal Credit – for those applying on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they get). See the section below for protections in place for those affected by the introduction of this income threshold

Please note that pupil premium funding also applies to children for the following circumstances:

- Children that are adopted or leave care under a Special Guardianship Order or a Child Arrangement Order
- Children who have been 'looked after' for 1 day or more
- Children whose parent(s) are serving in the armed forces, or have served in the armed forces in the past three years (this is known as 'Service Premium')

Universal infant free school meals

All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal because of government funding known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). **This does not mean you automatically qualify for pupil premium - please don't confuse UIFSM with free schools 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, please still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Pupils only get UIFSM in reception, year 1 and year 2. If your child in Key Stage 2 (Juniors) you will need to register so that your child can receive free school meals. Please see below on how to register.

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 – you can still provide a packed lunch for them.

If you're eligible, it's still very important that you register so that school receives the funding and we can support your child in lots of additional ways.

How do I register?

You only need to register once.

To register, please go to the Blackburn with Darwen Website

<https://mybwd.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Form%20Pages/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

Email the Local Authority: benefits@blackburn.gov.uk

Telephone the Local Authority: 01254 585585

For more information, access this website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-schools-meals>

Our strategy

Griffin Park has a 3 year strategy for the spending of pupil premium funding. Please go to our website, which contains details of how this, as well as how it has been spent in the past academic year.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact school.

Thanks for your support,

Mr A. Johnson
Pupil Premium Lead