



**Ready, Respectful, Resilient**  
Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

19 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Free School Meals & Pupil Premium Funding**

I am writing to you with information about extra funding that may be available for your child. We receive extra funding for your child through Pupil Premium funds from the government.

The government provide extra funding to schools through Pupil Premium Funds, you may be eligible for a range of reasons, including the following:-

- Your child is currently entitled to free school meals or has been at some point over the last 6 years.
- You are currently a guardian for a child in your care
- One or more parents is, or has been, in the Armed Forces

This extra funding available is to benefit your child. The funding is used to support your child's education in a number of ways including:

- Pastoral staff to support Pupil Premium pupils to ensure the care and attendance of our pupils; attendance is strongly linked to academic progress.
- Funding to help academic progress. This includes the provision of smaller class sizes, extra staffing, academic mentoring and educational equipment.
- Funding to support and enhance the delivery of numeracy and literacy skills of pupil premium pupils.
- Provision of enrichment opportunities.
- Social, emotional well-being support.

We are very aware that not all parents apply for or realise that they are entitled to Free School Meals. This may be because your child does not want school meals, you have been receiving universal free school meals and not had to make a claim or you feel there may be a stigma attached to claiming. Many families have seen their financial circumstances change of the last few months so please check the eligibility criteria on the reverse of this letter and consider completing an application. You do not have to take a free school meal for us to claim the grant. It will not affect any other benefits and your child will not be identified in any way to other pupils. You can apply online at:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Overview.aspx> Please help us to help your child by allowing us to claim the money that the government has made available to support your child.



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### **Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility**

The government has announced changes to the entitlement criteria for free school meals from September 2026. From then there will be two different types of free school meals, known as '**targeted**' and '**expanded**'. Families who receive any of the following are eligible for 'targeted' free school meals -

- Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit

**Families in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 will be entitled to 'expanded' free school meals.**

To apply under 'targeted' or 'expanded' free school meals please use the link:- [Applying for free school meals | Free school meals | Staffordshire County Council](#)

Please note, the new Targeted and Expanded free school meals cannot be claimed until 1<sup>st</sup> September, also we are unable to backdate a claim for entitlement to free school meals to cover unpaid money or refund money paid prior to the start date of a successful application.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs T Price  
Headteacher