

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We would like to encourage all parents/carers to apply for free school meals for their child even if they have home or packed lunch everyday because if you apply and are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits your child's school will receive an additional £900 funding from the Government which is known as Pupil premium.

Application is made using a new eform via the Newham website <http://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Free-school-meals.aspx> (eforms are in the top right hand corner of this web page) - failure to register may result in payment being required.

If you have any problems completing the eform on line please do not hesitate to come into school for some guidance.

Children whose parents/carers are in receipt of one of the following will be entitled to receive free school meals for their child if they apply. If you are in receipt of one of following please use the information on your TC602 Award Notice when completing the eform to minimise the number of possible query outcomes.

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers 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 and they have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs *
- Universal Credit **

* Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit Run-on the payment someone receives for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit – their children are entitled to free school lunches. Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

** During the Universal Credit pathfinder which starts on 29 April, children in families in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to FSM.

You CANNOT get free school meals for a child in secondary school if:

- you (or your partner) receive Working Tax Credit, unless it is the four-week Working Tax Credit run-on.
- you (or your partner) are the child's foster parent as arranged by a Local Authority
- the child is over 16 years of age and attends a college of further education

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Berwick-Walsh
Office Manager