



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Free School Meals**

I am writing to encourage you to apply for free school meals for your children, if you believe you may qualify. Even if you have applied in the past and not qualified, it may be worth trying again using the steps below.

Qualifying for free school meals will also attract additional funding through the **Pupil Premium Grant**. Pupil Premium funding, from the Department of Education, is aimed at improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in state-funded schools in England. You can find out how we use our Pupil Premium budget through the link below:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/pupil-premium/>

## **How Do I Apply?**

1. Call the Devon County Council Education Helpline on **0345 155 1019**. They will be able to help you through the process and identify if you may qualify.
2. Visit this website and follow links to the 'Devon Citizens Portal' - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/>

## **Who Qualifies?**

Children may be eligible for free school meals if their parents or carers receive any of the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190
- income based Employment and Support Allowance
- income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- income support
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- the guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit with an annual income of less than £7,400
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

## **How Much Money Could This Save Me?**

Qualifying for Free School meals gives any children you have at the school a daily food allowance of £2.65. As part of our Pupil Premium strategy, students receiving Free School meals will also receive a free daily breakfast, up to the amount of £1.50.



Qualifying for Free School Meals will also lead to access to subsidised trips/extra-curricular activities and a uniform/equipment grant being available, which could lead to substantial savings over the course of your child's school life.

**Will My Child Be Singled Out If They Receive Free School Meals?**

Absolutely not. Just under 18% of our school community currently receive free school meals. Our cashless catering system means that the money is loaded automatically (each day) onto any qualifying child's account. Students qualifying for free school meals purchase food and pay for it in exactly the same way as any other student.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year or myself.

Kind Regards



Kris Chick  
Assistant Headteacher

