



Cottesmore St. Mary

Catholic Primary School

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON



Headteacher: Rachel Breen B.A. Hons.

Dear Parents/Carers,

30th September 2019

Would you like a £50 towards an afterschool club, free breakfast club, a free uniform from the SOCs swap shop, and heavily subsidised music tuition from the Brighton and Hove Music School? If so did you know that just registering for Free School meals if you are eligible means that the school gets extra money that can be used for intervention or enrichment activities for your child. All children in the infants now receive a free school meal daily, but if you qualify for Free School meals using the criteria below, then do please fill in the forms as this will entitle your child all the benefits mentioned above. Just because you are registered for free school meals, doesn't mean you have to stop having packed lunches if that's what your child prefers. Register now to make sure your child does not miss out!

You may have heard that the Government is giving additional funding to schools called 'The Pupil Premium'. For every child registered for free school meals at this school we will receive extra funding within the school to use to 'narrow the gap' between free school meal and non-free school meal pupils.

In January 2020 (our school census day) pupil numbers are counted and our budget is calculated. A great deal of funding that comes from the Government for schools is based on the number of pupils eligible for free school meals. Please register as soon as possible to make sure your child and other children in the school do not miss out.

If your child is eligible for free school meals it means they can enjoy delicious, healthy meals without the bills and the fuss of making packed lunches. Many children at our school are already eating free school meals, and your child may be able to have them too. School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list overleaf.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – you only need to provide your name, date of birth, national insurance number and details of your child – if you think you qualify please contact the School Office or the Free School Meals Team at Brighton and Hove City Council – telephone 01273 293497. You can also apply online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk and follow the link to Free School Meals. Your enquiry will be dealt with sensitively and in strict confidence.

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are entitled to receive one of the following

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related employment and support allowance (IR ESA) (this benefit was introduced 27 October 2008)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs). Note - from 1 May 2009, where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school lunches.
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Please note - if you are in receipt of any Working Tax Credit you will not be eligible to apply for free school meals

Please be assured that no one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care.

Since April 2014, schools in England have been able to receive the pupil premium funding of £1900 for children adopted from care or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), a Residency Order (RO) or a Child Arrangement Order (CAO). Children who receive this funding will be entitled to all the benefits mentioned above.

In order to claim the next allocation of pupil premium funding for adopted children or those who are the subject of a SGO, RO or CAO, parents or guardians will need to inform Rachel Kershaw (Deputy Head) and provide supporting evidence, for example, the Adoption (Court) Order by Friday 13th January 2017. Schools are under a duty to treat this information with the strictest of confidence. Rachel Kershaw can be contacted via the school office if you want to discuss this further.

This is clearly a significant amount of money for the school and this would be used to the benefit and support of your child and the school. I appreciate that you may have further questions and many of the answers can be found on <http://www.adoptionuk.org/pupil-premium-plus>.

Please come in and talk to us if you are not sure

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anna Mullans
Inclusion Coordinator

