



St James' C of E Primary School

Off Stopes Brow

Lower Darwen, BB3 0QP

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Acting Head Teacher: Mrs M Tindall

Acting Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs A Bibby

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals (FSM). This is different to Universal Free School Meals which all KS1 children (from Reception- Year 2) are entitled to. The benefits to you are not only the free school meal but also free breakfast club and free school milk (KS1).

Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (PCGC) 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, as assessed by Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190

Please do not apply if the following applies:

- If you receive Universal Credit and earn more than £616.66 per month (gross). The income assessment takes your last three months of earnings into consideration when making the decision. If you drop below this threshold, at a later date, you will be able to claim free school meals again.
- If you have claimed Universal Credit and are awaiting the outcome of your award. Free school meals cannot be awarded until a decision on Universal Credit entitlement is made
- If you are already receiving free school meals at the school your child attends. Please note, under current rules you will continue to receive free school meals for the child until they leave their current phase of education

If you receive Working Tax Credit you will not be entitled to free school meals.

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Registering for benefit related meals could also raise extra money for your child's primary school called pupil premium to fund valuable support. Please see our Pupil Premium Strategy on the website for all the things that this contributes towards.

To Register for FSM and Pupil Premium

Online: blackburn.gov.uk/benefits and click the green box that says Free School Meals. You then click on the Apply for Free School Meals and fill in the form. You will need your National Insurance Number if you have not previously applied. You can claim for all your children who attend both primary and secondary school.

If you are having any difficulty applying please call me on 01254 315005 and I will be happy to help.

Mrs. Jacques
Inclusion and Wellbeing Co-ordinator

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