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Dear Parents and Carers

Free School Meal Entitlement

Since September 2014 all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are eligible for a universal free school meal, which is paid for by central government.

However, all children who qualify for a free school meal based on the financial circumstances of their parent/parent's, **regardless of their year group**, attract pupil premium funding, which is worth **£1385 per pupil** for our school. It is therefore important that parents who qualify under the criteria based on their financial circumstances register their child by contacting Central Bedfordshire Council on **0300 300 8306** (you will need your and your partner's (if applicable) National Insurance numbers. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed below.

Qualifying criteria for eligibility for free school meals and pupil premium funding is:-

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

