Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they may also be entitled to a sum of money paid to our school to boost their learning. This additional funding given to schools by the Government is called Pupil Premium.

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have qualified for Universal Infant Free School Meals, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would qualify for free meals under the income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium.

**If your child qualifies for free school meals, it’s important that you complete the online form** [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTkwNzE3LjgxNDE2NzEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTkwNzE3LjgxNDE2NzEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjgwODQ3MCZlbWFpbGlkPW9mZmljZUBpc2xlaGFtLmNhbWJzLnNjaC51ayZ1c2VyaWQ9b2ZmaWNlQGlzbGVoYW0uY2FtYnMuc2NoLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&115&&&https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/help-with-school-&-learning-costs/free-school-meals/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) – even if they take a packed lunch – as this enables them to claim pupil premium.

**Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money**, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible.

Some examples of how Isleham Primary School spends the pupil premium funding include:

* Extra one-to-one or small-group support for children within the classroom.
* Employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes.
* Providing music lessons for children whose families would be unable to pay for them.
* Funding educational trips and visits.
* Paying for additional help such as speech and language therapy or family therapy.
* Investing in resources that boost children’s learning, such as laptops or tablets.

Cambridgeshire County Council have redesigned their online form for families wishing to check their free school meal (FSM) and Pupil Premium eligibility.  Significant improvements made to the online application process enable parents/carers (in most cases) to get an **instant result** of the outcome of their application.

We respectfully ask existing families (who have not applied or qualified in the past) and to new families starting in September or indeed at any point during the school year to complete the online form - [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTkwNzE3LjgxNDE2NzEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTkwNzE3LjgxNDE2NzEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjgwODQ3MCZlbWFpbGlkPW9mZmljZUBpc2xlaGFtLmNhbWJzLnNjaC51ayZ1c2VyaWQ9b2ZmaWNlQGlzbGVoYW0uY2FtYnMuc2NoLnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&115&&&https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/help-with-school-&-learning-costs/free-school-meals/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

It is not necessary for parents of children who currently receive FSM to reapply as this entitlement is protected until the end of March 2022.  However, applications do need to be made for younger siblings who are starting school.

The form is quick and simple to complete.  Once an application has been submitted for a child, if the family do not qualify at that point, Cambridgeshire County Council will continue to check for future entitlement throughout that child’s school life, informing parents if they become eligible.  It is vital, therefore, that schools/families inform us of any changes to their name or address.

If you would like further information or support with this then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

Kind regards,

Lisa Dennis

Finance Manager

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