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Dear Parent/Carer

## **PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

**If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.**

### **What is pupil premium funding?**

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces.

At Thorpe Acre Infant and Thorpe Acre Junior Schools we get an extra £1,385 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

We've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Support with school uniform
- Reduced rates for school trips
- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Play therapy
- Art therapy
- Enrichment activities.

### **Is my child eligible for free school meals?**

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or 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, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month).

## **Pupils in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2**

### **Universal infant free school meals**

Currently, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free schools meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

### **Pupils in the Juniors**

If your child is in the Juniors and is eligible for free school meals, they are also entitled to free milk.

### **Does my child have to eat the free school meals?**

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

### **How do I register?**

You only need to register once at the school.

To register, please go to:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

### **More information**

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact Mrs Jo Pullen (at the Infant school office) or Mrs Lyndsey Isaac (at the Junior school office).

Yours sincerely

Jo Beaumont  
Headteacher