

March 2024



Dear Parents

Re: Free School Meals

The Government provides money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium' and is available to the Academy for every child who registers for Free School Meals.

With this money we could purchase extra text books, IT equipment and many other things that would benefit your child.

How does it work?

First, check if you qualify; you can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Please note, **if you are receiving Working Tax Credit your child is not entitled to free school meals, regardless of your income.**

Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, simply visit the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals and click on "Apply for free school meals". Alternatively, at your request, we can send you a paper copy of the form which you can return directly to Wiltshire Council or bring to the Academy and we will forward it to them on your behalf.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal whilst saving you more than £350 a year. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal, but as long as you qualify and are registered, the Academy will still receive the extra funding. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

If you have any questions about claiming free school meals please email office@sarumacademy.org

Yours sincerely

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