



The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



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The Downs CEP School

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Northbourne CEP School

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Head of School: Mr F Westmoreland

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Dear parent/carers

Have you signed up for free school meals (FSM)?

Do you receive any of the following?

- Income support
- Income based job seeker allowance
- Child tax credit (not including working tax credit) – if household income is below £16,190
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- An income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if you are an asylum seeker

Then you can apply for free school meals at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

Why should you apply?

As a school we get funding for every child who is registered for free school meals. This funding continues for up to 6 years after your entitlement has ended. So if your child is registered for free school meals whilst in year 2 and then it ceases, that funding is still available until year 8 in secondary school. This funding is available even if you are registered but your child chooses not to have a school dinner.

With this funding we can:

- Contribute to the cost of school uniform (up to £24 each year)
- Contribute to the cost of trips
- Contribute to the cost of breakfast club
- Contribute to the cost of clubs
- Your child can have free milk every day
- Discuss your individual needs and offer support as appropriate



We also use the money to:

- Offer one to one tuition after school
- Reading Recovery intervention
- Counselling and/or self-esteem session
- In addition to this, we also have used the fund to employ additional staff to support learning in class.
- Another significant expenditure part funded by Pupil Premium is the Family Liaison Officer
- Discuss your child's individual needs and offer support as appropriate.

The introduction of universal free school meals for children in year R, 1 and 2 has confused the matter and means that fewer parents have registered for free school meals. This means that as a school we will have less money to support children and families who need it or will need it in the future. So even if you have a child in years R, 1 and 2 and already receiving a meal but you know you would be entitled to register for free school meals please do register now. This is so your child will benefit once they are in year 3 and upwards. Do not wait until year 3, your circumstances may have changed and you may no longer be entitled to claim and therefore no funding would be available.

If you are not sure if you are entitled, it doesn't take long to complete the registration process, go to the website <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-mealsand>. You find out straight away if you are successful.

Funding to schools is allocated once a year based on the January census, so if you think you might be eligible please sign up now.

You can apply at any other time, as and when circumstances changed, but this will not be reflected in the school budget until the following year.

If you have any questions or need help making an application feel free to speak with a member of staff in the office or Miss Leighton.

Yours sincerely

Miss T Leighton
Head of School

