



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



*Chair of Governors: Dr A Eyden
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The Downs CEP School
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*Head Teacher: Miss T Leighton
Deputy Head: Ms N Luxford
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Safeguarding Lead: Mr M Turner*

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*Head Teacher: Mr M Reynolds
SENCO: Mrs K Morrison
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10 June 2019

Dear parent/carer

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, known as pupil premium, 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.

The introduction of universal free school meals for children in year R, 1 and 2 has meant 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 now or 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.

You can apply at any time, as and when circumstances changed although funding only comes into school once a year.

With this funding we can offer to, following a request/discussion of need:



Contribute to cost of reception starter uniform	Up to the value of £30.00	2 jumpers/cardigans. 1 PE top, 1 pair of shorts (<i>book bag is free to all reception starters</i>)
Contribute to the cost of school uniform	Up to the value of £35.00	Annually
Contribute to breakfast club	Up to the value of £2.50 (daily)	You may be asked to contribute half / This is reviewed termly and needs to be requested
Contribute to after school clubs	Up to the value of £4.00	Termly
Contribute to milk	Free milk every day	Reviewed annually
Contribute to Swimming	Up to the value of £6.50	Termly Y3/6
Contribute to trips	Up to 50% of the trip cost	Each trip
Contribute to residential	Up to the value of £150	Year 6 – needs to be requested
<i>Other</i>	<i>As and when something additional occurs</i>	<i>This will be in discussion with parent/carers</i>

We also use the money to:

- Offer one to one tuition
- Fund Reading Recovery intervention
- Fund Counselling and/or self-esteem session
- In addition to this, we also use the fund to employ additional staff to support learning in class, interventions and support in lunchtime club.
- Our Young carers also benefit from support with funding from pupil premium.
- Another significant expenditure, part funded by Pupil Premium, is the Safeguarding Officer
- Discuss your child's individual needs and offer support as appropriate.

More information about how we use pupil premium can be found on our school website www.downs.kent.sch.uk – key documents tab / pupil premium.

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 Teacher

