



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**School Organisation & Planning
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Jim Leivers
Director for Children's Services**

Dear Parents and Carers

Did you know ... registering your child for Free School Meals, even if they already receive them anyway or don't take them up, means that our school gets extra money from the Government?

Please register so our school doesn't miss out on vital money to spend on your child's education.

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. But we only get it if children that qualify get registered.

For every child registered for it, our school gets £1,320 extra.

Just imagine what we could do for your child with this money, and how the lack of it would affect what we can do.

Please register before Christmas to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.

It's easy to register!

1. First, check if you qualify – **it's not just if you are unemployed**, so please **look at the list on the next page** and see if it relates to you. Also, if you serve in the regular British Armed Forces or your child has previously been Looked After, please tell us as this could mean extra money for our school.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, please talk to us at the school office, and **we will help you to register**. Please just say if you want to speak confidentially – this is not a problem. **No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you claim.**

3. After registering, if you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great. If you'd prefer to give them a packed lunch, that's fine too. **The school will still get the extra money – thank you!**

Please talk to us about registering your child today, so that we get as much money as we can to spend on your child's and their friends' education.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

Do you qualify?

You can register your child if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that is not more than £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

Children can also register for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves instead of through a parent / guardian.

Come and talk to us confidentially if you're not sure. We are very happy to help.