LANE END PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

Did you know …for every child registered as entitled to Free School Meals, our school will get extra money from the Government?
Claim now to make sure we don't miss out!

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

For every child registered, *LANE END PRIMARY* gets extra funding.

With this money we could *give extra tuition after school for certain pupils, help fund the purchase of extra sports equipment or support parents at difficult times.* If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with the cost of school trips or music tuition.

Please get a claim in as soon as possible to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.

How do I claim 'Free School Meals'?

1. First, check if you're entitled - you don't have to be unemployed to qualify. Students and single parents working less than 16 hours a week are among those who may also qualify. Have a look at the list at the end of this letter.

2. You may not need to fill in a full claim form. Everyone in Leeds already getting help with their rent or Council Tax will automatically be considered for Free School Meals. If you're already getting help and think you might qualify for Free School Meals but haven't heard, simply ring the Benefits Helpline on 0113 222 4404 and they'll tell you what you need to do.

3. If you haven't claimed in Leeds before, phone the Benefits Helpline for an application form. Alternatively call in and get one from any Council One Stop Centre. One Stop Centre staff can also help you fill the form in.

4. The claim form can also be downloaded from **www.direct.gov.uk** Simply click on "***Free School Meals"*** at the bottom of the main page and follow the links.

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What are the benefits?

- If your child is in Years 3 to 6, they can have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime, saving you more than £400 a year in dinner money or saving you the hassle of preparing a packed lunch every day.
- If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, even though they already get free lunchtime meals, claiming Free School Meals will still help us to secure vitally needed extra funding to spend on pupils here in school.
- Getting Free School Meals will not affect any other benefits you are receiving and you can claim in confidence.
- Most importantly, the school gets an extra funding to spend for every child that has a Free School Meal award in place, regardless of whether they take it up.

We understand the reasons why some parents may not like to claim. Often people see claiming their entitlement to Free School Meals as “charity” and would prefer to provide sandwiches etc. However, we can only claim the ‘Pupil Premium’ on behalf of pupils who have a Free School Meal award in place.

Talk to us about claiming Free School Meals today

Yours sincerely,

Helen Askham
School Business Manager

Do I qualify?

Your child will qualify for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you 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- but not Working Tax Credit itself.

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