



Winscombe Primary School

Moorham Road

Winscombe

BS25 1HH

Tel: 01934 843407

Fax: 01934 844585

Website: www.winscombeprimaryschool.com

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Lorna Richardson

31st January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may be aware that the government introduced 'The Pupil Premium Grant' in April 2011 and schools are allocated additional funding into their school budget. **The premium provides funding specifically for children from low income families who have registered.** The purpose of the grant into schools is to raise achievement and improve outcomes for these children. In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend Winscombe Primary School fail to claim Free School Meals (FSMs), which is part of the Pupil Premium Grant, even though they are entitled to them (this includes KS1 parents, whose children are currently receiving the universal free school meal entitlement). Please note, if you are eligible for Pupil Premium Grant and the school receives this funding, you do not have to have hot school meals, however, the option will be there for you to have them for free at any point.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs we are writing to all parents and carers to ask them that if they believe that they may be entitled to claim for their children and do not already receive Pupil Premium funding, to make a claim. As I am sure you will agree, the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding. Not only that, our catering team provides an excellent range of healthy lunch options that are enjoyed daily by a significant number of our pupils. Your child may well be able to access these, free of charge.

At Winscombe Primary School we use the grant in a number of ways, whilst ensuring it is carefully targeted for those eligible children **to help them achieve their potential both academically and socially.** The main ways we spend the money are:

- To fund or part-fund the provision of Teaching Assistants / Learning Support Assistants to provide support for individuals, small groups and classes to help children to achieve their academic potential.
- To fund the provision of specific resources to support and improve achievement.
- To fund the provision of Teaching Assistants / Learning Support Assistants for non-academic interventions to help increase self-esteem, develop social skills; improve relationships, confidence, etc.
- To subsidise extra-curricular activities (extra-curricular clubs'/school trips/musical tuition) and the purchase of school uniform. **This does not include Breakfast and After School Clubs.**

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There will be a personal allowance of £150 per pupil per academic year, which is available to subsidise extra-curricular activities and school uniform contributions, which the school will monitor. This change will come into effect from Monday 28th February, following half term. Therefore, current Pupil Premium Pupils will have £75 remaining for this academic year.

Your child may be **eligible for Free School Meals as part of the Pupil Premium Grant**. If you think that your income is low and you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, please complete the online application form at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals> .

- Income support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190 without Working Tax Credit (as assessed by HMR&C)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The process of applying is straight forward and completely confidential. If you have any questions about the funding or the process, please do not hesitate in contacting me. Please also be assured that we make every effort to treat this matter with the appropriate discretion. We do not discuss Pupil Premium with pupils and it is highly unlikely that pupils will know that they are eligible for Pupil Premium or not. Similarly, we do not want to discriminate against children or families and prevent them from participating fully in the life of the school as a result of financial hardship. If you would like to discuss Pupil Premium further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, in the first instance.

NB: For any pupils already in receipt of FSM/Pupil Premium, please do not re-apply.

Kind regards

Andrea Muxworthy & Lorna Richardson

**Andrea Muxworthy & Lorna Richardson
Head of School & Executive Headteacher**



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