



St. Benet's RC Primary School

Fulwell Road, Sunderland. SR6 9QU

Tel: (0191) 5492020

Email: enquiries@stbenetsschoolsunderland.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs AA Blakey



October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Did you know registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money? We are asking all parents to register, even if your child has a Universal Infant Free school meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 or they don't want an actual meal. Please register now to make sure we don't miss out!

The Government is giving extra money to schools for children eligible for free school meals. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'.

For every child registered, St Benet's RC gets £1455 this year.

With this money last year we have:

- reduced class sizes for English and maths lessons
- have booster sessions and interventions to support basic skills
- pastoral care – to provide counselling and support
- additional support for extended learning and enrichment of the curriculum eg subsidising transport, extra-curricular activities, residential and educational visits.
- books – phonic intervention programme and spelling system.

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

1. First check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list on the next page.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, visit this website: <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/families/free-school-meals> to apply online or ring Tel: 0191 561 1417 for further information.
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year), extra benefits and the school gets **£1455** extra.
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets **£1455** extra.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Many thanks.

School Office

Do you qualify?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If your child is eligible for and getting free school meals at any time before 31 March 2025, they'll remain eligible until this date.

Please apply if you get any of these benefits - your child's school can also get extra funding if you do. Free school meals are only available to school aged children (Reception onwards).

If your child is eligible for and getting free school meals at any time before 31 March 2025, they'll remain eligible until this date.

The Free School Meals team Tel: (0191) 561 1417 can help with any questions that you have.