

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Pupils who are in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a funded hot school meal each day under the Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme.

But you may be entitled to **Free Schools Meals** too. Particularly if your circumstances have changed over the last year. If this is the case, please let the school know. We will be able to help with an application for Free School Meals. This would mean that your child would continue to get free school meals from Y3 onwards (as long as the criteria are still met), but free school meal entitlement also entitles the school to receive additional funding (£1,300 per child, per year). This pupil premium funding supports qualifying children (from Reception onwards) with a range of things - from contributions towards the costs of school trips, music lessons, counselling sessions, forest school and additional staffing to support children.

Parents can apply for Free School Meals at any age, though you must be in receipt of one of the benefits shown below to be eligible:

- **Income support**
- Income-based **Job Seekers Allowance** (NOT contribution based JSA)
- Income-related **Employment and Support Allowance** (NOT contribution based ESA)
- Support under **Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999** – National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- The guarantee element of **State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (you must NOT be entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 (April 2012))
- **Working Tax Credit 'run-on'** – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- **Universal Credit** (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earning from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

If you currently receive Working Tax Credit (other than the 'run-on') you are not eligible to claim.

Please email the school at admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk if you would like an application form or have any other queries.

