



# Chestnuts Primary School

'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

Headteacher: Miss Becky Skillings

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Katie Robins    Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Sam Sear

Dear parents/carers,

**Registering for free school meals can benefit your child and the school.**

## Your child could be entitled to :-

- **£1320 worth of extra support and opportunities as well as—**
- **Free uniform**
- **Free school meals, worth up to £400 per year**

### **Reasons for registering**

- Your child will have access to a varied menu, providing nutritious food and it represents a saving of about £400 per year

and/or

- In addition, the school receives an extra payment from the government, based on its numbers of Free School Meals Pupils.

Please also register, even if your child is currently entitled to Universal Free School Meals (i.e. in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1), as the school only receives funding from the government for each child registered for Free School Meals.

### **Does my child have to eat a school meal if I register?**

While it is recommended your child eats a school meal, due to the nutritional value it provides, this is optional – we would ask though that you register regardless of whether or not they want a meal so we can receive this funding.

### **What is Pupil Premium?**

**We will receive £1320 for every child registered for Free School Meals from the Government,** providing us with a very important boost to school funds. This will allow us to provide extra support such as extra tuition, teaching assistants or resources. We will also be able to buy your child's school Uniform.

### **How will this benefit my child?**

Although the school as a whole will benefit from receiving this extra funding, we will use this funding to provide targeted support and provision to individual children who we know will benefit from additional provision.



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## How do I know if I qualify?

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance – Income related
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (**not Contribution Based JSA**)
- Child Tax Credit only (with a combined family income of less than £16,190 per annum as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) **Please note, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of income, will not qualify for free school meals.**
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit

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

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary) they're in on 31 March 2024.

If your child is currently eligible, you do not need to reapply even if your child is changing schools.

## How do I apply?

Please register at <https://emsonline.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CitizenPortal> **LIVE**

You will receive a reference number that you simply bring in and show us at school.

If you need help or support to access the Citizen Portal, please pop into the school office and we can help you access the portal on the computer in our reception area.

Yours sincerely,

Becky Skillings  
Headteacher



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