

16 July 2014

Dear Parents

**Could your child be entitled to a Reduction in the Cost of School Trips and Free Swimming Lessons in Years Reception, 3 and 5?**

From September 2014 all children who are in reception, year 1 or year 2 in a state-funded school will be offered a free healthy school lunch. Children in other school years will also be offered a free school lunch if their parent is receiving any of the welfare benefits listed below:

- Income Support (IS) or
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income (as assessed by The Inland Revenue) which from 6 April 2011 does not exceed £16,190
- Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance (IB JSA) or
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) (ASA(IRA)) or
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Registering for free meals could raise an extra £1,300 for our school, which would be used to fund valuable support such as free swimming lessons, a reduction in school trips, including a substantial part of residential trips and extra tuition.

This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed above.


It is, therefore, important to sign up for free school meals, even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, so that our school receives as much funding as possible.

The process is very simple via the online eligibility checker on Dorset for You - <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/free-school-meals> This online form only takes a few moments to complete and will give parents an immediate response, avoiding the need to wait while paper forms are processed. You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name
- Date of birth
- National Insurance Number (or your registered asylum seeker number)
- Child's details - name, date of birth, and school for which you want free school meals

Automated checks will be done to confirm your entitlement, and if you qualify, you will be told immediately. You can also apply by telephone - call Dorset Direct on 01305 221000, and the form will be completed on your behalf.

Yours sincerely

  
S B Crumpler

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