



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Participation Achievement Support Success

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Re: Cashless Catering and Free School Meals entitlement.

I am delighted to inform you that our new 'Cashless Catering' system is now fully operational and being used very effectively by our students. One of the many benefits of this new system is that any student entitled to free school meals can now purchase their food in exactly the same way as other students rather than using dinner tickets issued by the school. The advantage of this is that it is impossible to recognise which student is taking advantage of their entitlement to free school meals. Research has shown, in schools across the nation, that many families do not use the free school meals facility to which they are entitled because of concerns that their child/children would be made to feel uncomfortable. We are now able to completely overcome this as each child registered for free school meals has their account credited by £2.10 daily. All each student has to do is use their index finger or swipe card to purchase their food! (We can easily arrange this if your child hasn't registered yet!)

With this in mind, I would like to appeal to any family, who is entitled to claim free school meals for their children, to claim this facility via the West Sussex Grid for Learning Website. This is a very straightforward process, which involves completing a two page document. **Evidence of current entitlement to receive a relevant benefit will be checked on a secure government website. Therefore you do not need to supply paper evidence with your application.**

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 they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.



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Additional benefits of enrolling for free school meals

The government has provided an additional source of revenue called the 'Pupil Premium'. This subsidy will be used, by Imberhorne School, to ensure that students entitled to free school meals are financially supported in accessing a range of trips and activities. We will receive £488 for each student registered. Therefore, the more students we have taking up their entitlement, the more we can provide financial assistance to those students who need it most.

How does it work?

1. Tap 'West Sussex Grid for Learning' into 'Google'
2. Choose the letter 'F' from the A-Z menu at the top of the webpage
3. Select 'Free School Meals' from the directory (Towards the bottom of the page!)
4. Complete the very brief 'Free School Meals Application Form 2011-2012'
5. Post or email the form off to the addresses given. You will be contacted from there!

Alternatively

You could download the form from our Website...or...contact me and I will make confidential arrangements to help you complete the form here at school! Nobody will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Please note that this email has been sent to all the many families who have supplied an email address.

I would be very happy to hear from any family who would like support in applying for free school meals or are unsure of the process.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy Headteacher

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