

St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Kesteven Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 1SR Tel: 01780 762094
Email: office@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs R de Wet

Dear Parents,

At St Augustine's we want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can.

Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Currently all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the government's Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme. However, families who receive certain benefits as shown below may be eligible to claim free school meals throughout their child's time at primary school as well as other valuable educational benefits:

- **Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.**
- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guarantee element of Pension Credit**
- **Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)**
- **Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190**

Importantly, many people are not aware that if a child is entitled to a free school meal based on the above criteria, their child's primary school could receive an extra **£1,320** of Pupil Premium funding from central government to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

As a school, we used to be able to complete this process for all parents of Reception children and those families whose circumstances altered, to ensure that we knew who was eligible for this funding. However, a new system has been introduced from September 2018 which means we can no longer do this and parents themselves are now required to perform a quick and simple eligibility check online. In order to do this you must have an email address.

We would like to encourage every parent in our school, regardless of what year their child is in, who believes that based on the above criteria their child would be eligible for Free School Meals/ Pupil Premium Funding, to perform the check online as detailed in the attached guidance. To make this process even easier I have placed on the School Website [http://www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk/](http://www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk) a link on the School Meals section of the Parents Tab which takes you directly to Lincolnshire County Council's parent portal, from which you can perform the eligibility check yourself. In most cases you get an instant result and we will be notified of this in school so that we can record your child's eligibility immediately and obtain the benefits of the support available to us.

If your child is in Years 3 to 6 and is already receiving a free school meal you do not need to do this online check as their entitlement is already recorded.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions about the above or any difficulties with the online process as we are more than happy to assist you either via telephone, email or here in school.

Yours faithfully,

The St. Augustine's Office Manager