



Shaping Futures: Together
we learn, care and grow

Ashwell Primary School

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Friday 17th May 2024

IMPORTANT Financial Updates – Various

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you will all be aware, the recent economic climate is likely to have impacted everyone in one way or another. As a school, we are conscious of this and constantly reviewing all activities and expectations where there is a cost to parents (Uniform, trips etc). Alongside this, we have also recently undertaken a review of our existing support mechanisms that are in place to support parents with these costs.

I am now writing to all parents to outline some key changes that we are making as a school to **further enhance** the support we are able to offer families with the on-going school costs in the current financial climate. These changes have already been agreed and are in place as of 1st April 2024 (the beginning of the 2024-25 Financial Year). **Residential visits as of September 2024*

In addition to this, I seek to ensure that all parents are fully aware of the support available to them through Government funding and how parents can play their part in ensuring the school better funded as a result which will in turn benefit **ALL** children. Please do take a moment to read the information on the following pages regarding Free School Meal Eligibility and Pupil Premium funding. If eligible, and not registered, you could really make a huge difference to support us.

What are we doing to further support families?

Previously	From 1 st April 2024 (Now!)
<p>Curriculum Enrichment Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parents asked for voluntary contribution Parents requiring support invited to submit remission request for financial support. On a case by case basis reduction made to cost of trip 	<p>Curriculum Enrichment Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) will automatically have the full cost of all day trips covered by Pupil Premium Funding Parents with children NOT in receipt of Free School Meals asked for voluntary contribution and parents requiring support invited to submit remission request for financial support
<p>Swimming (Year 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parents asked for voluntary contribution Parents requiring support invited to submit remission request for financial support. On a case by case basis reduction made to cost of swimming 	<p>Swimming (Year 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) will automatically have the full cost of swimming covered by Pupil Premium Funding Parents with children NOT in receipt of Free School Meals asked for voluntary contribution and parents requiring support invited to submit remission request for financial support



Previously	From 1 st April 2024 (Now!)
<p>Residential Trips (Year 4-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All children benefit from a Henry Colbron subsidy to reduce cost of residential trips ▪ All parents asked to pay remaining cost of residential visits ▪ Parents requiring support invited to submit remission request for financial support ▪ Grants applied for on a case by case basis and match funded by the school to enable reduction made to cost of residential 	<p>Residential Trips (Year 4-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All children to benefit from an increased Henry Colbron subsidy to reduce the cost of residential trips (approx. 20% of residential total) ▪ Children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) will automatically receive the following funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% Pupil Premium funded ○ 30% additional Henry Colbron funded ○ Any additional grants the school is able to secure ▪ Parents with children NOT in receipt of Free School Meals asked to pay cost of residential visits. If support is required, parents invited to submit remission request
<p>Extra-Curriculum Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) are offered one funded block of extra-curricular clubs per term. 	<p>Extra-Curriculum Clubs – No Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) are offered one funded block of extra-curricular clubs per term.
<p>School Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our PTA now run a well-stocked, exceptionally good value second hand uniform shop that is accessible to all families. ▪ All children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) may request support towards the cost of school uniform 	<p>School Uniform – No Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our PTA now run a well-stocked, exceptionally good value second hand uniform shop that is accessible to all families. ▪ All children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) may request support towards the cost of school uniform.
<p>Additional Support – If eligible for FSM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to Free School Meals (daily) ▪ Access to free milk (if) ▪ Food vouchers provision (In-line with HCC Household Support Fund guidance) ▪ Access to Holiday Clubs (In-line with HCC Holiday Activity and Food Programme guidance) ▪ Music Tuition funding (via Herts Music Service) 	<p>Additional Support – If eligible for FSM No Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to Free School Meals (daily) ▪ Access to free milk (daily) ▪ Food vouchers provision (In-line with HCC Household Support Fund guidance) ▪ Access to Holiday Clubs (In-line with HCC Holiday Activity and Food Programme guidance) ▪ Music Tuition funding (via Herts Music Service)

At Ashwell School we remain committed to providing ALL children with an extensive range of opportunities through both Curriculum Enrichment and Extra-Curricular activities.



**HAVE YOU CHECKED YOU ARE GETTING WHAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TOO?
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS & PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING?
CAN YOU HELP MAKE SURE WE ARE FULLY FUNDED?**

Free school meals eligibility

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2

Your child is eligible for universal infant free school meals if they are in either Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

School milk in Reception, year 1 and year 2 - schools provide free milk for all children, up until their 5th birthday. If it's during the term, they won't get free milk from that term onwards. After that, most children who have registered for free school meals can continue to get free milk, except for children who get Universal Income free school meals. Contact your school for more information.

Please note: If you also get any of the qualifying benefits below, please make sure that you register as we receive additional funding for this. Registering your child in Reception – Year 2 not only ensures they will receive a free healthy meal every lunchtime, it also raises an additional £1,480 for the school from the government. This money is used by the school to offer pupils invaluable additional support as outlined in the school's table on the previous page.

Have you registered your child if you are eligible?

Children in Reception – Year 2: [Register Here](#)

Children in Year 3 - 6

Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Please apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes 5 minutes and in most cases you will be told straight away if your child can get free meals at school and all of the other benefits.

School milk in year 3 or above

Children entitled to free school meals can also get free milk. Contact the office for more information.

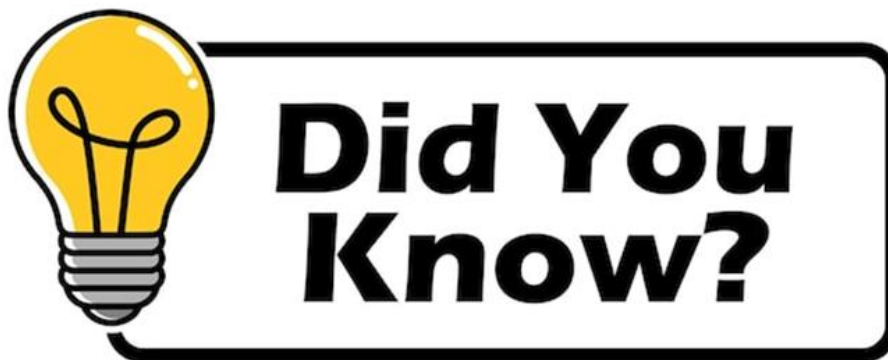
When moving from Year 2 to Year 3, did you check if your child was eligible?

Children in Year 3 – 6: [Register Here](#)

Families already receiving free school meals

If you currently receive free school meals, your child will continue to receive them until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period (expected September 2024). Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.





Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil premium funding is sent directly to the school and its main focus is to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and help them reach their potential.

All children who are eligible for Free School Meal, also qualify for Pupil Premium Funding. If you register, Ashwell School gets extra funding to pay for additional staff hours, resources, books and trips etc. This extra funding is £1480 per pupil.

Pupil premium funding **is not a personal budget** for individual pupils and the funding will be used to improve teaching quality to achieve the best outcomes for **all pupils**.

The school has a number of pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding; however, we understand that all pupils face unique challenges and, therefore, the funding will not only be used for the benefit of eligible pupils. Pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium, however, will be prioritised.

The school intends to ensure pupil premium can be used to address the following areas:

- High-quality teaching, e.g. by investing in staff development
- Targeted academic support
- Non-academic barriers to success, e.g. attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support



Accessing further information

Parents are more than welcome to contact the school if they would like to talk in confidence about their child's eligibility for the Free School Meals / Pupil Premium or how we use this funding. Mrs Bowen, our School Business Manager can help you if you have any questions. You can contact her via the school office or admin@ashwell.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your support and for helping to make sure the school receives as much funding as possible to give every pupil the support and education they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S England
Headteacher