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Headteacher: Mrs M McCarthy



Dear Parents and Carers,

Are you entitled to free school meals?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes are entitled to a free school meal as part of the universal offer from central government. Many parents don't apply for free school meal eligibility as they already have a school lunch provided.

But, there are benefits associated with being eligible for free school meals, including reduced rates for trips and visits organised by school and extra music lessons. There is also an entitlement to vouchers for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The HAF Programme provides **free** healthy food and enriching activities to children and young people who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holidays.

The government gives schools additional funding to improve the education of offer. For children in Y1-Y6, the school receives an additional £1300 per child. For children in early years, we receive an additional £300 per child.

The application process is straightforward.

You can complete an electronic application on the Wigan Council website,

[https://finforms.wigan.gov.uk/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Wigan%20Education%20and%20Childcare%20Benefits%20Application%20\(1.0\).wdf](https://finforms.wigan.gov.uk/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Wigan%20Education%20and%20Childcare%20Benefits%20Application%20(1.0).wdf)

Alternatively, you can pop into school and collect a paper copy of the form and we will send it to the council on your behalf. If you need any help completing the form, our pastoral team of Mrs Whittle and Mrs Craig will be more than happy to help.

If your child is in Y3-Y6, you could save your household up to £418 a year per child. Don't miss out!

Yours faithfully,



Michelle McCarthy
Headteacher

