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### **Information regarding Free School Meals**

I am writing to you to let you know that parents who are claiming some benefits can also claim free school meals for any of their children who are attending the school. Since we changed the payment system within the canteen school lunches are paid for with fingerprint technology and FSM/PP status would be anonymous. However, even if you don't want your child/children to have the meals, claiming them helps the school obtain additional funding to support your child's learning. This funding is called pupil premium and is used to enable students to access subsistence for some trips, resources, receive extra support in core subjects and more.

### **Who can get Free School Meals?**

You can claim free school meals for your children if you receive any of the following:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with annual take home pay/net earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included

If you would like further information about claiming free school meals you can talk to the local Education Office on: 01934 888888 (or Mandi Davies at Gordano School)

**Alternatively you can find details about applying for free school meals on the county council website at:**

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Services/freeschoolmeals.htm>

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