



Billingshurst Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

As you know from our recent letters, West Sussex schools are facing extremely challenging financial constraints due to the unfair funding of our schools compared to others nationally. BPS is particularly hard hit because we are a large school but we do not receive additional funding for deprivation. We rely hugely on the Pupil Premium funding to support a great number of children who may face social or economic disadvantage. We use the funding to employ specialist teachers and provide additional resources to those children who need it, some on pupil premium and some who are not. All children eligible for Pupil Premium are supported as appropriate to the needs of each child.

The level of this funding is entirely based on the number of families receiving Free School Meals – and this number has fallen in the last two years, mainly because all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children now receive a free hot meal under the Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) scheme. We believe that there are many families who would be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) but are not applying.

In order to make sure that we maximise the Pupil Premium funding I am asking all parents who think they may be entitled to Free School meals to apply. If you have a family income of £16,190 or less and are not in receipt of Working Tax Credits you may be entitled. If you are entitled the school will receive extra funding for each child and you will be entitled to a Free School Meal into KS2 as long as your circumstances don't change. We also offer a number of benefits to children entitled to FSM:

- Free tickets to the annual pantomime
- Reduced costs for residential visits in Year 4 and Year 6
- A free school book bag or logoed jumper
- The cost of one club per year that charges a fee

You may also receive free or reduced cost music lessons from West Sussex Music Service.

If you think you may be entitled to FSM please drop into the office and ask for a form or complete one online at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#how-to-apply-tab>. Once the application is successful you can choose your book bag or jumper. We would also refund any costs already paid towards the pantomime.

Please help us continue to support the children through ensuring that we get the maximum funding possible. All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence – if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. Details of how we spend the Pupil Premium is on our website.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

