

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

To parents of children starting, or already attending, Campion School

- ⇒ **Are you claiming your full benefit entitlement - for you, your child, spouse and partner?**
- ⇒ **When did you last have your benefit entitlement assessed?**
- ⇒ **Could you be missing out on Free School Meals for your child?**
- ⇒ **Did you know that entitlement to Free School Meals will also benefit your child's school?**

Do you RECEIVE any of the following benefits?

- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an assessed income of less than £16,190
- The Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income-Related)

If so, you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals

Why do Free School Meals matter?

- Children who eat well during the day concentrate better in lessons
- Sitting down to a meal together is an important part of a child's social education
- One child in four does not eat a hot dinner in the evening
- 7% of school children do not eat breakfast
- Up to 10% of children are deterred from buying lunch at school by the cost - the average amount spent on a school meal is £1.46
- Researchers in the UK found students scored higher in tests when the nutritional content of school meals was improved
- In an average class of 30 children, six pupils will not eat any fruit in a week, but will eat (in weight) four times more confectionery than greens
- Sandwiches are also available as part of Free School Meals

There is no distinction between children who pay for School meals and children who receive Free School Meals

If you are entitled to Free School Meals, but your child prefers a packed lunch from home, please still make a claim to benefit both the school and your child.

Why make a claim for Free School Meals?

When you successfully apply for free school meals the school will receive an extra **£935** of government funding even if your child does not want the meal.

This additional funding will be used to help children from lower income families do their very best at school. Also, if your family is registered for free school meals you may be eligible to claim other forms of assistance, for instance with home-to-school transport (for more information contact, Education Transport on 01926 742059).

How to claim Free School meals

You can **apply** on-line via www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals **or** by telephone on 01926 742060 (Customer Service Centre).

Please be aware that the date of entitlement is the date we process a successful application for Free School Meals - we do not backdate claims or speak to your child's school for help in applying.

Please Note: If you or your partner is entitled to Working Tax Credit you do not qualify for free school meals, regardless of income (unless you are receiving a four week "run on" of WTC).

Do you know if you are receiving all your entitled benefits?

Many families are not – please let us check your benefits to make sure you are claiming your full entitlement. The following is an example:

Jill and Ben both work and look after their two children. They were claiming Child Tax Credit, but were not aware they were entitled to Free School Meals for their children. As a result of a 'benefit check' they now also receive Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

- WWRAS is a **free, confidential** and **independent** advice service
- WWRAS can do a **free benefit check** – you will receive help with any forms that need to be done. Why not find out if you are entitled to more help.

Simply complete the slip below, pop it in an envelope and post it to us using the **freepost** address given – no need for a stamp – please **print** your details.

I WOULD LIKE A *FREE* BENEFIT CHECK PLEASE CONTACT ME:

Name

Address.....
.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel number.....

POST TO: WWRAS, FREEPOST CV2104, NUNEATON CV11 5BR