

September 2018

Dear Parent,

Since the Universal Free School Meals programme began, there has been a REDUCTION in the number of FAMILIES APPLYING FOR THE STATUTORY FREE SCHOOL MEALS, which means that school loses out on vital funding which is used to benefit the children.

We understand that parents are very busy and might not have the time to fill out additional paperwork to apply for the statutory free school meals. Therefore to help make this process easier for parents, we have introduced a new system, where school can apply on your behalf by simply using the information you provide on the attached form to complete an online application.

By doing this, school **does not** gain access to any of your personal records or financial details. We are simply given an answer 'eligible' or 'not eligible' for statutory free school meals and it removes the need for applications to be sent to the local authority as they have done in the past.

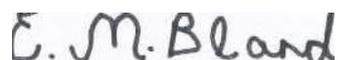
In addition, by completing this form, we will be able to register your application with a new confidential website www.myfreeschoolmeals.com which will confirm if school is entitled to claim the Pupil Premium for your child. Parents and carers who have a statutory entitlement to free school meals will also be entitled to free meals for any siblings in years 3 – 6 and will qualify the school to receive £1,320 per year for every child. This money is used to support the education of all pupils by funding vital intervention work to help pupils achieve their full potential. It is also used to support eligible families with other aspects of school life. Even if your personal circumstances change the school retains the annual sum to educationally support your child throughout their years at Broadbottom CE Primary School. That could amount to **over £9,000** per child, money that school cannot afford to lose.

To help school access the pupil premium funds which your child may be entitled to, please complete the attached form and return it to school as soon as possible.

We will write to all families who are confirmed eligible for statutory free school meals and the pupil premium.

Completing this form does not mean that your child is committed to having a school meal if they do not want one.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Esther Bland
Executive Headteacher