Great Crosby Catholic Primary School

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LM/lcm 12th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Free School Meals and Universal Free School Meals

When your child joins Great Crosby we ask you to consider whether you may be eligible to receive free school meals and if so to apply, in order that the school may access additional funds to support your child. It is important to note that since September 2014 there are two types of Free School Meal on offer.

1. Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM)

This is a free school meal for all pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 regardless of income or receipt of benefits. There is no need to fill in any paperwork or claim forms to receive this. All children in these year groups will automatically get free meals. We encourage you all to take up this offer.

2. Free School Meals

This is the free meal that parents can claim for their child when they are in receipt of certain benefits (see attached). This type of income-related Free School Meal is available to parents of ALL school children, whatever the age of their child.

You can apply to Sefton Council for Free School Meals online at:

https://www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals

It you are eligible for Free School Meals it is important to claim even though your child may get a free meal anyway as part of the UIFSM programme. Every child that registers for Free School Meals could generate an extra £1,455 to fund valuable support such as intervention projects, additional teaching or extracurricular activities. All money that comes into school this way (which is referred to as Pupil Premium Funding) goes straight to support for those children that need it – but school will not receive this money unless parents/carers claim it.

Yours sincerely Mrs. L Morton Headteacher As a Sefton resident, you are eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit and have a net household income of less than £7400 per annum
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit ONLY (not entitled/receiving Working Tax Credit) and have an income of less that £16190.00
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Support under VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act