

IEM/PGR/KCR

9<sup>th</sup> January, 2012

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Every year the school reminds parents and carers of the potential financial support available through a free school meal. The austerity measures introduced by the coalition government have affected a number of families in recent months, with redundancies and cuts in pay. There is some help available for families that are suffering hardship and a significant number of our pupils have already been granted a free school meal. We are aware, however, that the numbers claiming a free meal do not reflect the true numbers of children that are eligible.

If your financial situation has changed recently, your child may be entitled to a free meal if you are in receipt of the following:-

- Income support
- Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but are **not entitled to Working Tax Credit**, if your annual income does not exceed £16,190

If you are not claiming for free school meals and you believe that one of the above relates to your personal circumstances, then please consider making an application as soon as possible. If you are in any doubt about whether you are eligible, please contact Janet Marshall without delay:-

- By telephone on 01226 773 513
- In person at Barnsley Civic Centre, Eldon Street, Barnsley - Monday to Friday 1pm to 2pm

This should ensure that applications and queries are processed as quickly as possible.

The benefits available to claim are two fold; in addition to your child receiving a substantial meal free of charge, the numbers claiming free meals also affects school funding through the Pupil Premium. Applications approved over the next two weeks in particular, will ensure that the school is able to attract appropriate and much needed levels of funding for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

*I. Ellam*

Mr. I. Ellam  
Joint Headteacher

*P. Gallagher*

Mr. P. Gallagher  
Joint Headteacher