



Pride in ourselves,
pride in our school,
pride in our community.

High Street
Arlesey
Beds
SG15 6SL
Tel: 01462 732002
Email: GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

19 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a tough time for everyone in our community for lots of reasons. One of these is the employment and financial instability caused by lockdown and social distancing rules. We know that a lot of parents will have found themselves in a financial position that they may never had experienced before and for some the situation will just have squeezed an already tight budget. Free School Meals is a government system which helps to take away some of the worry of making sure that there's enough money every week to feed your children.

If your children are in school and are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will receive free school meals as usual. But, if they're not in school or in these year groups, the burden of food costs at home will have risen with the closure of Gothic Mede. All children in Reception and Years 1 to 4 can register for Free School Meals.

If your child is registered for Free School Meals with the local authority you will receive:

- A free meal for them every day at school
- Vouchers for supermarkets if your child is not attending school during this period of partial school closure (can be used in Aldi, Asda, Tesco, Sainsburys, Morrisons, McColls, Marks and Spencer and Waitrose)
- Vouchers throughout the whole of the summer holidays from a COVID Summer Food Fund – the funding for which Marcus Rashford has recently fought

As well as this, your child will attract funding (the Pupil Premium Grant) for the school which we will put towards their academic support and extra-curricular opportunities such as musical instrument lessons. From this, we also offer £20 each term to parents to contribute to the costs of buying school uniform.

Overall, there's a lot to get from registering for Free School Meals!

Is my child eligible for Free School Meals?

For your child to qualify for free school meals you must get one of the following benefits:

- [Universal Credit](#) and your household income after tax is less than £7,400 per year (not including any benefits you get)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), as long as you are not getting [Working Tax Credit](#) and have an annual income of less than £16,190
- [income-related Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [Income Support](#)
- [Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- The guarantee part of [Pension Credit](#)
- Asylum seeker support

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on **0300 300 8306**. When you call to apply, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Acting Vice Principal: Amy Morris
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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If you need any further information or want help making your application, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Our staff have a good understanding of the benefits of registering and can talk to you about the practicalities of the process.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

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