



September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Are you eligible to a free cardigan/jumper?

Currently, all Reception and Key Stage 1 children are provided with a hot, nutritionally balanced meal at lunchtime at no cost to parents or carer.

However, it is vitally important that schools know the children who are from families in receipt of certain benefits, regardless of which key stage they are in and whether they have a free meal or not.

This is because part of our school funding is set by the number of children from families who are entitled to these benefits. The school received a sum of money called the 'Pupil Premium' (currently worth £1320 per eligible child) and this money is used by schools to:

- employ teaching assistants in classrooms
- run intervention programmes to provide extra help or challenge for children
- buy resources to support learning

Headteachers are concerned that the provision of universal free school meals will mean that schools may not know about some children who are entitled to Pupil Premium funding and schools will lose out on vital money.

Our school can receive this funding if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits

- **Income Support.**
- **Jobseekers Allowance** (income-based)
- **Employment and Support Allowance** (income-related)
- **State Pension Credit** (guaranteed element)
- **Child Tax Credits** (provided you are not also entitled to Working
- **Tax Credit** and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- **Working Tax Credit Run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Email: info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk Website: www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk



- **Universal Credit** (you must have less than £7,400 a year net earned income (after tax - and not including any benefits))
- **I am an Asylum Seeker**

If parents do not apply for the additional funding we may not be able to continue to provide all of these exciting opportunities for your children!

Any child who receives this funding will also receive a free school jumper/cardigan.

Please contact the school office where staff will gladly help you complete a short application form or apply online by going to <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>.

Yours sincerely,

L Mason

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Headteacher

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