

# FLITWICK LOWER SCHOOL

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Headteacher:  
Mrs. Joanna New

Dear Parent

September 2014

From the beginning of this term, significant changes are happening to school food: cooking is back on the curriculum, every pupil in reception, year 1 and 2 will be eligible for free school meals and from January, new food standards are being introduced. These are three of the 16 actions in the Government's School Food Plan, which aims to transform what children eat in schools and how they learn about food (The School Food Plan can be found at [www.schoolfoodplan.com](http://www.schoolfoodplan.com)).

I wanted to write to you to explain these changes and, importantly, to ask you to fill out the enclosed forms so that the school can continue to receive extra funding through the pupil premium.

Good food and good food culture has been shown to lead not only to healthier, happier and more fulfilled children, but to improved educational attainment. Evidence from those areas that already provide universal free school meals is that children eat more healthily and perform better academically. Schools in those areas have also reported improved behaviour and atmosphere as a result of all pupils eating together every day.

New standards for school food have recently been published and will come into force in January. By following them, we can be sure that our pupils will get the nutrition they need across the whole school day.

We believe that the school lunchtime is a great opportunity for all our children to sit down together and enjoy their healthy and tasty meal, while developing their social skills. Therefore, we hope that all parents will take up this offer of a free school meal for our infant pupils. The menus for the school meals can be found on the School website or you can ask for a copy from the School Office. We work on a 3-week rolling programme for these menus, but the dates for the start of each week are stated on the menus.

Prior to this new Government initiative, if your child was entitled to Free School Meals due to family and financial circumstances, the school received additional Pupil Premium funding which was used specifically to run targeted intervention programmes to help children improve their levels of attainment. In order to ensure that we are still able to offer these intervention programmes at the same level across the school, we need to endeavour to make sure that all children who still fall under this category are registered, even if they are entitled to Free School Meals under the new Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative (i.e. all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2). Please complete the attached form.

### **Registering for School meals**

We ask that ALL PARENTS fill in the attached school meals registration form. This is important so that we can continue to register pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding, which is worth £1,300 a year per pupil for our school. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs New at the school office. Registration is a simple matter of calling the Free School Meals Department by telephone on 0300 300 8306.

More information can also be found on our school website [www.flitwick-lower-school.net](http://www.flitwick-lower-school.net)

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for your child to enjoy a healthy, balanced and nutritious meal every day.

Yours faithfully

Mrs New  
Head Teacher

