



Talbot First School
Church Lane,
Kingstone,
Uttoxeter,
Staffordshire,
ST14 8QJ

The Woodlands Federation

Headteacher: Mr. Jason Gathercole

Chair of Governors: Mrs Amy Cox



St Peter's CE (VC)
The Square,
Marchington ,
Staffordshire,
ST14 8LH
01283 820252

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our Summer Term, I hope you managed to have some quality time with loved ones and make the most of the glorious weather over the Easter Break.

As you will know the current situation is quite challenging with inflation, the rising cost of petrol, food, energy.....(the list goes on) and some businesses having to cut staff making daily life incredibly difficult.

As a federation, we want to ensure we are helping you as much as possible, where we can, in these challenging times.

I am very conscious that the position of some families may have changed due to the recent events and wanted to highlight a possible source of help. Please check below, at the end of this letter, to see if you meet any of the criteria below for free school meals (you can still apply if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or year 2).

It is important to know that the school receives funding (Pupil Premium) for every child in receipt of free school meals which allows us to provide resources, support and funding towards educational and residential visits significantly reducing the financial impact on families in receipt of free school meals.

All pupils from Reception to Year 2 receive what is known as Universal Free School Meals which often means that some families do not apply for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium until their child reaches Year 3 and will have to pay for their meals. If you fit the criteria it is worth applying as soon as possible so the school will receive Pupil Premium funding and we can help you considerably with school trip contributions, resourcing and support etc.

If you still meet the criteria when your child moves to year 3 they will continue to receive school meals at no cost to you.

I hope you find this letter useful and if you require any assistance then please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will be more than happy to assist you. Any enquiry or application will be treated in the utmost confidence.

A strange letter to start the term but I feel an important one if it means we can reduce some of the financial burden for families finding themselves meeting these criteria or may meet one of the criteria in the near future.

The entitlement criteria from 1 April 2018 is -

- *Income Support*
- *Income Based Job Seekers Allowance*
- *Income Related Employment and Support Allowance*



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- eligible for Child Tax Credit **but not** Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess

tax credits) is not more than £16,190. **Please note:** anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify

- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

If you feel you meet any of these criteria then please follow this link and apply using the online portal-
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Q001.aspx>

My very best wishes,

Mr Jason Gathercole
Headteacher.