



Wednesday 15 April 2020

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

I hope you are all keeping well and managing to enjoy this glorious sunshine in your gardens or outside space. We are now in our fourth week of school closure, and in the third week of a national 'lockdown' and this is the time when we are starting to really miss our everyday lives - seeing friends and family members and being able to go out to shops, cafes, parks etc. Please take the time to read the well-being section at the end of this newsletter.

Next week, teachers will begin to add daily tasks to Class Dojo, so please take the time to look at these. We are all enjoying seeing the work and photos you share with us on Dojo, so please continue to share these moments with us. Teachers are available to message on Dojo, so if you have any questions or queries, please let them know.

I hope you all continue to stay safe.

Mrs Hodson

UIFSM and FSM

Over the past few weeks, there has been some confusion between Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. All children in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a hot school meal every day free of charge. Those children eligible for FSM will continue to receive a free meal everyday until the end of year 6, whereas UNIFSM children will be required to pay for a hot school lunch as they move in to Y3.

FSM have been in place for many years following the 1944 Education Act and are available to all school aged children if you receive ANY of the following:

- Universal Credit (Provided you have an annual net income of no more than £7,400)
- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)



FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals you will receive a £15 voucher to spend in a supermarket every week during school closure. If you think you might be eligible for free school meals, please use the following link to apply: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2, they will receive a UIFSM. However, if you meet the eligibility criteria for FSM (shown above), it is extremely important that you claim for this. The meal your child receives will be no different. Schools now receive funding from the government for every child that is or has been registered for Free School Meals (FSM) at any time in the last six years. This additional funding is called **Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)** and is used to support children's learning. **PPG** is paid to schools in accordance with Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 and should be used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap with their peers.

At Poplar Farm, the PPG is used for the following areas:

- Contributions towards some educational visit costs.
- Some items if uniform bought every school year.
- Additional support in intervention groups.
- Some additional resources to support learning.

During the current pandemic, all families eligible for FSM are entitled to a £15 voucher to spend in a supermarket for every week school is closed.

Please be reassured that all applications are confidential, and we do not share any information with who is or is not eligible for FSM with other parents or children.

If you have any questions or queries about applying, please send an email to enquiries@poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk

Well-Being advice for parents and carers during extensive periods at home

With the country grasped by a series of measures to restrict movement whilst encouraging people to stay at home, such situations can be difficult for all of us to comprehend.

It is important that you look after your physical and emotional wellbeing as best as possible.

The Government explain,

'How a child or young person reacts can vary according to their age, how they understand information and communicate, their previous experiences, and how they typically cope with stress. Negative reactions may include worrying thoughts about their health or that of family and friends, fear, avoidance, problems sleeping, or physical symptoms such as stomach ache.'

To help combat such difficulties, they have put together a document to support not only the young people you care for but also your own wellbeing. [You can find their advice here.](#)

