Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware the government do not fund the school meals for children in Junior schools as they do in Infant schools. Parents would need to apply for free school meals either by using the below link or completing the form enclosed in this pack.

It is also worth mentioning the government do not fund free milk or free snacks in Junior Schools either. If you apply for the Free School Meals funding and are successful we are able to fund, free fruit at morning break time.

**Apply for Free School Meals…**

**it's quick and easy using the online form at:**

https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at Brackenwood Junior School BUT YOU MUST APPLY!

Look at the benefits:

* A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
* Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.
* Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium, worth at least £1350 a year.

Remember, just registering your child for Free School Meals means that Brackenwood Junior School receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

If you want further information then please talk the school office or myself or email [businessmanager@brackenwood-junior.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:businessmanager@brackenwood-junior.wirral.sch.uk)

Everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Fry

Headteacher

**Do you qualify?**

Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

|  |
| --- |
| * 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 State Pension Credit |
| * Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 |
| * Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit |

Pupils can qualify for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

**Come and talk to us if you’re not sure.**

**How does it work?**

1. Checking whether you qualify and registering is really quick and easy – do it online at:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>

2. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that’s great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year) and the school gets extra money to help your child and others in their class.

3. If you don’t want your child to have a free school meal they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify, and are registered, the school still gets the extra money.