



The Shared Learning Trust

THE VALE
ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: **Free school meals**

We have recently submitted our school census for Autumn 2017 and have been liaising with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the funding the school receives for our children.

Are you missing out on benefits that you are entitled to?

Pupils that are eligible for Free School Meals and that have registered through Central Bedfordshire Council are not only entitled to a free hot meal at lunch time but also qualify for further benefits. These include a **free instrument lesson and a free after school activity club**.

Please note: Reception, year 1 and 2 are entitled to receive a universal school meal, this is not the same as FSM and does not include a music lesson and an after school activity club

To qualify you must receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

If you think that you may be entitled, please call Central Beds Council on **0300 300 8306**. All you have to do is register with them and they will contact us to let us know that your child is eligible. If you would like support in contacting Central Beds Council to register for Free School Meals, please contact the main office to request an appointment before or after school.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Debbie Stone



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