



## The Federation of **Stoke Hill Schools**

11 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Grant – online checking service**

The school has signed up to a confidential online service that sends us an automatic email if your financial circumstances change and your child becomes eligible for Free School Meals. We know of a local school where a parent was out of work for just a few days and this alone triggered an email and allowed the child to have free school meals. The parent had not appreciated that this small period of changed circumstance would trigger the benefit and was extremely grateful to the school for informing him.

We are now moving to this system which requires us to enter your NI number on our programme. The system, backed by Capita, is totally secure and only gives the school the very basic information needed when financial circumstances change. We will have no access to additional information beyond this.

At the Infant School all children have free school meals but it is important that you still register for free meals when you are eligible as this triggers extra money to the school through the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) which funds additional staffing to support your child and gives you a £30 uniform allowance each year plus free breakfast club at the Junior school and 75% off all trips and residential. In addition at the Junior School, your child will also receive free school meals. Once your child is eligible for The PPG, she/he will remain so for at least a further 6 years.

We would be grateful if you would give us permission to enter your NI number by completing the form attached. Even if you are not eligible now and cannot see this changing, any unforeseen change of financial circumstances, even those for a few days, will be checked and could result in this assistance. If we receive a notification we will advise you and the benefits of the PPG would start immediately. Any free school meal entitlement will continue until the Universal Credit system has been fully implemented.

In this time of budget restraint, it is essential that we maximise our PPG funding so the checking service is important to the school as well as you and your family.

Yours sincerely

*Roy Souter*  
Headteacher

