

7 September

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Universal Free School Meals

As you know all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. In addition some children are entitled to free school meals due to a benefit related payment received by the parent/ carer. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has extended this scheme to all children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for the new academic year 23/24.

As such all primary school children who attend state schools in London are now eligible to receive **free school meals** for the full academic year, starting this September. This funding means that primary school children can access free meals saving families up to £458 across the year in order to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

Your child will receive their free school meals automatically, **but** it is vitally important that you still complete the school's free school meal application form in case your child is eligible for extra funding from the Government, worth £1,300 per year (known as **pupil premium**). This provides the school with extra money to spend on enrichment activities, teacher development, and targeted support for the children that need it most. It may also entitle you to other benefits such as food vouchers during the holidays and a discount on our in-house after school clubs. Forms will be sent home for all students in Nursery, Reception and Year 3 this week. If you feel that your child could potentially be entitled to benefit related FSM you can collect a form from the office. Once signed completed forms are returned to the office a quick eligibility check will then confirm whether or not your child is entitled and you will be informed by text message. Please note that one form can be completed for all children in the family. If your child is already receiving the benefit related FSM you do not need to reapply.

For more information please visit: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals-and-help-uniform-costs>

St Chad's is proud of our dedicated in-house catering team who provide healthy nutritious meals for our children every day. You can view our 3 week menu by clicking [here](#) to see the options offered.

Families who are struggling with their financial situation can also access advice and support by visiting the cost-of-living hub here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Isobel Vassallo
Executive Headteacher

