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Dear Parents

We have almost made it through to the end of Term 1 without a national lockdown at least! Here in school we are all so pleased to have had the opportunity to have had all of the children back in school for a prolonged period of time. It feels as though we are all adapting to this “new normal” very quickly indeed!

Free School Meals

As the current situation remains uncertain, and many people are experiencing a reduction in working hours or redundancy, I would like to remind you of the opportunity to apply for Free School Meals for your children.

If you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- 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 guaranteed 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 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

please do apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>

Even if your child already receives a free meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School scheme, or you do not actually wish them to receive the school meal, please do still apply if you are eligible. Doing so will entitle your child to what is known as Pupil Premium Funding - a grant which schools can use in a number of ways to support your child, including through the provision of school uniform, payment for Breakfast Club and school trips (when they resume), as well as through in school support as necessary.

**We promote the learning and development of all children to achieve their full potential
in a caring, happy Christian environment**



Please note that even if your circumstances subsequently change, meaning you are no longer entitled to free school meals for your child, the Pupil Premium entitlement stays with them for six years. We can therefore continue to offer additional support even after the free school meals entitlement ends.

Applying is very quick and simple and you will be notified by email regarding the outcome of your application. If your application is successful, the school will be notified separately, although this may be after you have been notified. As this is often the case, we do ask that you let us know, to ensure your child receives their entitlement at the earliest opportunity.

Parents and children sometimes may feel that there is a stigma associated with receiving free school meals. Please be assured that if you do apply the school is not notified unless your child is found to be eligible to receive free school meals. Only if the application is successful is the school notified. This information is then given only to those who process this in school. At no stage would any other pupil in school know that the child is receiving free school meals, and no distinction is made between the children in any way.

Future Dreams

We are happy to give pupils the opportunity to “wear pink” next Friday. We would be very pleased to receive any donations in support of the Future Dreams charity, in aid of breast cancer. Thank you.

Hot Lunches

I am delighted with how well the return to hot meals for our Key Stage 2 children has gone. From next week, we hope that all meals will be eaten in the hall once more. It is lovely to hear the children properly enjoying the social aspect of sharing a meal again!

Packed Lunches

As you know, we relaxed the rules on packed lunches during the time that we were unable to offer cooked meals to the whole school. Now that we have returned to a fully operational kitchen, however, we will be returning to our previous expectations concerning packed lunches. To this end, chocolate and crisps should only be included in lunch boxes on Fridays, please. *Please do remember that we are a nut free school and nuts and nut products (including peanut butter and Nutella) are not permitted at any time.* Thank you.

Parent Consultations

We are very pleased to be holding Zoom or telephone consultations this term. The teachers have enjoyed sharing the children’s successes and achievements with some of you already, and are looking forward to catching up with more of you next week.

If you have not yet returned your form to make an appointment, there may still be some slots available next week. Please do contact me and I will do all I can to arrange a suitable time for you to have a discussion with your child’s teacher. If you have returned your form and have not received confirmation of your appointment time, please do contact me and I will re-send the invitation. Thank you.

Parent Survey

Following the remainder of the Parent Consultations next week, we shall be sending you a Parent Survey, which we would be grateful if you would complete over half term, please. The survey will cover various aspects of school life, and will inform our planning over the coming months, as we continue to reflect on the children's transition back into school following lockdown. Thank you in advance for your support.

Star of the Week

Congratulations to the following pupils whose effort and achievements have been recognised by their teachers this week. Well done, and keep up the great work – we are all very proud of you!

Year 1	Felicity B	Nevaeh D		
Year 2	Edward B	Jack D	Phoebe L	
Year 3	Paishey S	Ted S		
Year 4	Rachel H	Harrison S		
Year 5	George Cu	Ella J	Maisie L	
Year 6	Sophia F	Violet S	Finlay V	all of Year 6!

Year 6

We are so proud of all of the Year 6 children – both those who sat the Kent Test this week, and those who remained in class whilst testing went on. The children taking the test all settled really well and tried their best – all we could ask of them. The remainder of the class behaved really sensibly and supported their classmates beautifully. Well done, Year 6, you should feel very proud of yourselves.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Tina Holditch