

# Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

*A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



## Free School Meal Eligibility Changes – Important Information

### Check your eligibility before 1<sup>st</sup> April

**Free School Meal eligibility will be changing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018:** at the moment, you may be entitled to Free School Meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits and have an annual income of no more than £16,190. **From April 1<sup>st</sup>, this is changing so that people will only be eligible for Free School Meals if they are in receipt of Universal Credit and have an annual income of less than £7,400.**

However, **anyone who is currently entitled to Free School Meals will have their eligibility protected for the whole time that their child is in primary education**, whether your circumstances change or not. Therefore if your child is in Reception and you are entitled to Free School Meals under the old rules, you will never have to pay for School Meals whilst they attend Primary School. This is a potential saving of over £350 per year, which would come to over £1,400 over the four years you would be charged for school meals. Children who are entitled to Free School Meals also receive a slight discount on any residential visits the children take part in, such as Ford Castle in Year 6 and Gibside in Years 3 and 4.

**We are therefore encouraging anyone who is not sure if they are eligible for Free School Meals to apply by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018**, so that the office can process the information before the changes come into force.

Please fill in the form below and send back into school by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The School Office will be in touch with you if you are found to be eligible for Free School Meals.

Child Full Name	
Parent (Claimant) Surname	
Parent (Claimant) National Insurance Number	
Parent Date of Birth	
I hereby give consent to a check for Free School Meals eligibility, via Durham County Council's Benefit Systems and the Department for Education's online service which includes data from HMRC and DWP. (Communication with Durham County Council may be subject to monitoring and recording.) I understand that it is my responsibility to inform the school if I no longer receive the relevant benefit.	
Parent (Claimant) Signature	