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Wiltshire SN12 6QZ

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Principal
Alan Henderson

www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Re: Free School Meals and children from service families

We are writing to all parents to remind you that in certain circumstances, you may be eligible to claim Free School Meals. There is no stigma attached to this classification since we have a cashless payment system in our canteen. In addition, there is additional funding available for the school when pupils claim Free School Meals, which is used to improve outcomes for students who may be at a disadvantage. If your child is already in receipt of Free School Meals, please disregard this letter.

We would also like to hear whether any of our students are from service families, since this also enables us to claim additional funding to help these students. If you have already let us know about this, please disregard this letter.

Do you think you could be eligible to claim Free School Meals?

Qualifying criteria include parents who are in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance, Income Support, Child Tax Credit and other state benefits. If the answer is 'yes', please use the link below and if you meet the specified criteria, make your application via Wiltshire Council.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals>

Does your child meet the criteria for a service child?

Pupils qualify as a 'service child' if:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- they have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point since 2011
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service are classed as service children

If your child meets any of the 'service' criteria and you have not already let us know, then please contact me directly.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Mark Surowiec Assistant Principal
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