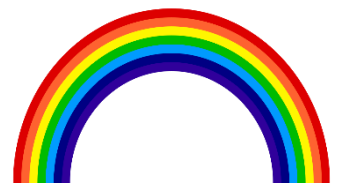




Field Junior School

01923 221877



As we are in the throws of our 3rd National Lockdown many families will be facing financial pressure.

This newsletter is to highlight the services/information that is available to support you. If you have **any** concerns then please talk to us. We are here to help.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Even if your child does not want a school meal it is worth applying for FSM. You may be able to get support for Herts Music Service costs and other services. It may also mean your child is able to get extra support with their learning in school. **Claim the FSM even if you know your child will continue to bring in a packed lunch!** Go on to the Herts website to apply: **Need help to apply? Call the school office and leave a message for Mrs. Conroy to call you back.**

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Apply today if you receive any of the following:

- * **Income Support**
- * **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- * **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- * **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- * **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- * **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- * **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- * **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Government advice is currently stating that : "If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022."(Gov.uk)

- **(The government are also extending FSM to: children of Zambrano carers, children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction) CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU MEET THIS CRITERIA.**

Universal Credit

Not sure if you can claim Universal Credit? Not sure if Universal Credit is a better option than benefits you are currently claiming?

CALL CITIZENS ADVICE ON "OUR HELP TO CLAIM" TELEPHONE LINE.

0800 144 8 444

It is a free, confidential helpline and they can help you through the process. **Remember Universal Credit may be something you can claim if your financial circumstances have changed due to this situation.** If you claim this you would be entitled to Free School Meals but seek advice first.

Citizens Advice

Need advice on benefits, finances or housing? Watford's Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) offers free advice:

<https://www.cawatford.org.uk/>

Advice telephone line:

03 444 111 444