

6 January 2014

Headteacher: Christopher Anders BA (Hons) MA

Dear Parent/Guardian

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The government has extended the ways in which schools can qualify for Pupil Premium. Not only do schools get Pupil Premium for free school meal (FSM) pupils, or if a parent is or has been in the armed forces within the last four years, but schools can now also get Pupil Premium if your child is an adopted child who was formally a 'looked after child' and adopted on or after 30 December 2005.

Why it is important to register your entitlement to Pupil Premium for previously 'looked after children' before Wednesday, 16 January 2014

From April 2014, schools in England can receive additional funding through the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005. Schools can also claim the Pupil Premium Plus for children who left care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991.

The Pupil Premium is to help schools raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap with their peers. The Government has extended the coverage of the Pupil Premium in recognition of the traumatic experiences many adopted children have endured in their early lives and a realisation that their needs do not change overnight.

The Government has advised us that for the purpose of receiving Pupil Premium for children adopted from care, schools can ask parents to provide information and supporting evidence, for example, by showing the school the original Adoption (Court) Order. We need this information **before 16 January 2014**, which is the date schools complete the annual School Census, which triggers the payment of the Pupil Premium Plus to the school from April 2014. More information can be found on the front page of our school website (www.pcs.hants.sch.uk) by clicking the Adopted Children & Pupil Premium link.

We would like to assure you that any information you give us about your child will be treated in strictest confidence.

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Why it is important to register your entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM) before Wednesday, 16 January 2014

Pupil premium is paid direct to schools, allocated to them for every pupil who receives FSM. How much each school receives is based on a school census taken each January, which shows how many pupils have been eligible for FSM in any of the previous six years.

If your child is registered for FSM, the school will receive additional funding which is used to help increase pupils' attainment. Financial support may also be available for other school-based expenses. Schools decide how to use the Pupil Premium funding, as they are best placed to assess what additional provision their pupils need.

To check your eligibility or to register, please visit the 'Info for Parents' section of our website. Registering for FSM is confidential.

Why it is important to register your entitlement to the armed services' Pupil Premium before Wednesday, 16 January 2014

Pupil premium is also allocated to schools for every pupil who has a parent currently in or who has been in the armed services within the last four years. Please let us know if this applies to you as we do not get told this information by anyone else.

Please remember that, in order for the school to receive Pupil Premium funding and Pupil Premium additional funding, registrations need to be completed before Wednesday, 16 January 2014.

If you would like to tell us about your adopted child or register for FSM, please visit School Reception or call us on 023 92 489800.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Anders", followed by a period.

Christopher Anders
Headteacher