

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Census Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

This is an important day for the school as funding is allocated by the Department for Education. As this funding is based on how many children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 take up their entitlement to a Universal Free School Meal, we are hoping that all children in those year groups will have a school lunch on this day.

As you are aware, the Trust recently held a competition named “The Great British Harvest”, giving all children across the Trust the opportunity to design a menu that would be served to all children in our schools on Census Day!

The winning menu was chosen by our Trust Executive Team. Congratulations to St Marks C of E Academy. Children can choose from the main or vegetarian options of:

- **Toad-in-the-Hole with Broccoli and Mashed Potato**
- **Pumpkin & Chickpea Curry with Rice & Broccoli**

Dessert will be:

- **Blackberry & Fruit Crumble with Custard**

There will also be the usual option for sandwiches and wraps. This is completely free of charge to pupils in EYFS and KS1 as these year groups are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. **All FSM & UNiFSM children will be automatically included for lunch on this day unless parents opt out.**

As a thank you for everyone’s support with the competition, **lunch will be FREE for ALL children on Thursday including those in KS2!** Please book your child’s lunch online via the MCAS App by 10.00am on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. If you need a password reset, contact the school office.

The school in the Trust with the highest attendance on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October will receive a boost of up to £1500.00! We all have our fingers crossed that our attendance will be the highest in the Trust and know that our families will support us with this.



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## FLOURISHING FUTURES

If you believe that your child may be eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals, please complete the online form with Devon County Council. [Free School Meals – Devon](#)

You will be informed of their decision directly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards



Mr Grimley

Head Teacher

### **Pupil Premium Funding**

Did you know that even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives the Universal Free School Meals, the school could be entitled to extra top up funding from the Government. This is called Pupil Premium funding:

#### **Gov.uk says:**

“Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. Evidence shows that disadvantaged children generally face additional challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as other pupils. Your child's school may be entitled to **pupil premium** funding if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

#### **How does my school get the pupil premium for my child?**

##### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

All children at this age are eligible for Universal Free School Meals so you will need to apply separately for the pupil premium for your child's school.

“Please be aware that a child must reside with the applicant to receive the pupil premium.”

If you feel that you might qualify for benefit-related Free School Meals for your child, **regardless of your child's year group**, please apply at: [Free School Meals – Devon](#)