

Stocksbridge High School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2006 sees the start of another exciting venture for us; we have taken over the running of our school canteen and now employ our own cooks and catering staff, appropriate for an acclaimed healthy school. We were one of the first Healthy Schools in Sheffield, achieving the Healthy Schools award for our whole school food policy on diet, nutrition, food safety and hygiene. Making a success of this is very important and will benefit our community. If you have any questions please contact our Catering Manager via the school.

To service our canteen all our food is now prepared on site; we buy our meat locally from Crawshaw's and fresh fruit and vegetables are provided daily with some coming from our own school allotment. We have a breakfast club starting at 8:00 until 8:45am providing a wide range of cereals, toast, sandwiches and full grilled English breakfasts. Fresh fruit drinks are available, bottled water, fruit juice with spring water, and milk. Free School meals allowance can be used to buy from our extensive menu.

Do you qualify for free school meals?

In England, 21% of students are eligible for free school meals. Every local authority has a legal obligation to offer free school meals to children whose parents receive either Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. So if you fit any of these criteria, your children qualify.

How do you claim?

You can collect a form from the school or sometimes apply over the internet - like Housing Benefit, the exact process depends on where you live. Our school reception staff will know what to do if you're unsure. Remember the parent/carer who actually claims the benefits must fill out the application form.

The good news is that once you've completed the form, it's not necessary to re-apply every year, only if your child changes school. On average, a family with 2 children spends over £600 per year on school meals so it's well worth checking out your entitlement.

What difference will it make?

Our aim is to ensure all children are getting a healthy balanced diet; children who eat well during the day concentrate better in lessons and sitting down to a meal together is also an important part of children's social education. Claiming free school meals also helps our whole school budget by making us eligible for additional funding.

More information including the full menus can be found on our web site www.stocksbridgehigh.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Featherstone
Headteacher

