

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

During January, the school provides a census return to the Department for Education which is used to define the amount of funding Ballfield receives for the next financial year.



A huge part of this now rests on the amount of children entitled to free school meals so we really want to urge parents who think they may be entitled to claim to do so, even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch.

We also appreciate that many parent's financial circumstances may have changed in this financial climate and may not realise they are eligible for free meals.

You may be entitled if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support.
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance.
- An income-related employment and support allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit, but not receiving Working Tax Credit, and your annual income does not exceed £16,190.
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Parents receiving Working Tax Credit for four weeks after their employment finishes are entitled to free school meals during that period. This also applies to parents who start working less than 16 hours per week.

Application forms are available from the school office and any enquiries will be treated with the strictest confidentiality. Children receiving free meals are **NEVER** identified at registration, even the teachers cannot see who is entitled to a free meal.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Once again the shoebox appeal was a great success. Thank you to everyone who contributed, together we collected 61 boxes.



The boxes have been collected and will be sent to disadvantaged children across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who supported us on Children in Need Day by wearing something spotty. Together with the kitchen staff we raised £362.43 for this worthy cause.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We are delighted to announce that the PTA's Christmas Raffle and Fayre raised an enormous £1,313.05.



Thanks for your work and efforts in supporting the PTA in raising such a spectacular sum. We would also like to thank Barclays Bank who are also making a donation to the fund.

The next event will be a fashion show which takes place on Friday 20th January at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £4 and are available now from the school office.

Over the past year the funds raised have been used to purchase resources to help provide a reading corner in each classroom, expand the resources in Foundation Stage, provide refreshments to the children at Fitness Fun Day and pay for a theatre group to perform to the entire school.

Every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when their child starts at school. With your help and support we hope to build on the huge success we have already achieved with our fund raising and other social events.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

It's been an extremely busy and productive term and I would like to thank the entire school community for their hard work, especially in making all the Christmas performances so enjoyable and successful.

We are currently collating and analysing your responses to the questionnaires and we will bring you some feedback in the New Year.

2012 promises to be an exciting year for Ballfield. We will be building up to the Olympic Games with some special events and we will be continuing to develop the learning spaces throughout the school.

We are working hard to achieve our challenging attainment targets. Every child has an individual learning targets in maths and literacy and they should be able to tell you what they are!

In the meantime have a lovely Christmas break!

Sheila Haigh

Visit our website at:

www.ballfield.co.uk