



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School
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24 November, 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

WHO WANTS A FREE £50???!!!

To encourage parents and carers to apply for Free School Meals, we are running a free draw for Touchwood Vouchers as an incentive to apply.

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals, less and less parents are applying for FSM which causes a great deal of problems for us maintaining all of the extras we put on for our children. This is because for every application that is successful the school gains an additional £1,320. You will see from our website that over the last year this has equated to around £60,000 in extra funding to our school.

This allows us to:

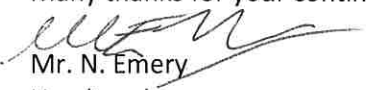
- Provide targeted additional adult support in every classroom.
- Provide Phonic Support or Y1 children, including careful tracking of the children's phonic ability.
- Provide monitoring of persistent absences on a regular basis and celebration of high attendance through the acknowledgement on a weekly basis during Praise Assembly.
- Provide financial support so that children can attend day and residential trips.
- Employ an intervention Support Teaching Assistant to provide support for children who are at risk of not making progress.

I know no one would want those things to be cut back so can I urge you to take the opportunity to access the online portal via www.solihull.gov.uk/fsm. The process takes a few minutes only and you will receive email confirmation of your application and the decision based on your personal circumstances – all of the data is completely private and once you have applied regular checks are run by the council in case your circumstances change. Once a child has been eligible for Free School Meals for more than one day, school receives the benefit of the £1,320 for **six years** (or until they move to secondary school).

If that isn't enough incentive to ensure your child gets the best deal, for each application (successful or not) you will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a £50 voucher for Touchwood. All you need to do is provide the school with evidence that you have filled it in (email confirmation, screenshot, etc.). **All parents who have already applied will also be entered.** The draw will be made on **Thursday 17th December, 2020**, so all applications must have been submitted and proved by close of school on **Wednesday 16th December, 2020** to be entered.

Should you have any queries please contact Mrs. Donnelly, Office Manager.

Many thanks for your continued support.


Mr. N. Emery
Headteacher