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Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Census Day and UIFSM

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January its national School Census Day, and in an effort to increase the uptake of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) on that day, Chartwells have a special themed menu with the children’s favourites. The menu for that day will be: Golden Fish Fingers & Chips or Quorn Dippers & Chips (v). There will also be a jacket potato or wrap option on this day.

Census Day is when the Local Authorities collect information electronically from every school in their area, partly to guide them in planning and funding. They collect details such as pupil numbers, number of pupils with Special Educational Needs, entitled to Pupil Premium funding, entitled to Free School Meals, attendance information and so forth. One thing in particular they are looking at this time is the number of children taking the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), to provide schools with appropriate funding for this service such as utility costs.

To maximise our potential funding, we would encourage all families with children entitled to UIFSM to enjoy their free meal on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January rather than bringing a packed lunch that day.

It is the amount if children in Key Stage One **eating** the free meal on the actual day’s lunchtime that informs our funding, rather than meals ordered for that day or children attending school. Pupils who bring a packed lunch from home unfortunately are not able to be included, nor are the children who normally take UIFSM, but who are absent on the Census Day.

Once again, we encourage as many as possible to commit to eating the UIFSM on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January; this will record those children as having eaten on Census Day and therefore count towards the total Government funding that will be allocated to our school for UIFSM for a whole year. This can be as much as £4,500 for every 100 pupils.

Hopefully it will also create some enthusiasm amongst the children who don’t normally take the meals and lead to more of them eating over the rest of the school year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Briley

