

29th April 2020

Dear Parent,

We hope that you are doing well.

During this time, we are aware that there may be some of you who are out of work as a result of businesses closing through lockdown. For those that might be self-employed or not receiving furlough, we wanted to write to remind you of possibilities for extra financial support at this time.

### **Free School Meals**

Free School Meals and Clothing Vouchers are available for your child(ren) if you receive one of the following qualifying 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, provided you do not receive Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC);
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit

Free school meals can be applied for online at:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

You will need to set up a user account, but once log-in details are confirmed, you should be able to access the form fairly easily to apply. If you are unable to apply online, please phone **01228 606060 to speak to the Free School Meals team.**

## Cash for Kids

Cash for Kids are offering schools the opportunity to apply for Basic Essentials Family Grants. These grants are for a total of £35 and are there to help the individual families affected by poverty due to the Covid-19 virus. The grant should be used to pay for food, heating or provide basic essentials.

If you feel that your family would benefit from this, please email me at [s.kirkbride@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk](mailto:s.kirkbride@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk)

## Disability Living Allowance

As your child has an EHCP with a diagnosis of Autism, you should be able to apply for the Disability Living Allowance. Please see below for further information:

### Eligibility

Usually, to qualify for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children the child must:

- be under 16 - anyone over 16 must apply for [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#)
- need extra looking after or have walking difficulties
- be in Great Britain, a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland when you claim - there are some exceptions, such as family members of the Armed Forces
- have lived in Great Britain for 2 of the last 3 years, if over 3 years old
- be [habitually resident](#) in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands
- not be subject to [immigration control](#)

***You can claim DLA for children if you're in or out of work.***

### Care component

The rate the child gets depends on the level of looking after they need, for example:

- lowest rate - help for some of the day
- middle rate - frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
- highest rate - help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

### Mobility component

The rate the child gets depends on the level of help they need getting about, for example:

- lowest rate - they can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors

- highest rate - they cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind, severely sight impaired

### **How to claim**

To claim DLA for a child you need to be their parent or look after them as if you're their parent. This includes step-parents, guardians, grandparents, foster-parents or older brothers or sisters.

### ***To apply you can either:***

- print off and fill in the [DLA claim form](#)
- phone the Disability Living Allowance helpline and ask for a printed form

### **Disability Living Allowance helpline**

Telephone: 0800 121 4600

Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 121 4600 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

If you are in a position that you would like to apply for DLA, but need a form printed out and sent to your home address, please email Mrs Ewing at [l.ewing@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk](mailto:l.ewing@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk) and she will post a copy out to you.

I hope that this helps, but if you have any questions or would like help filling out any of the forms, please don't hesitate to contact myself, Mr Aindow (Head Teacher) at [r.aindow@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk](mailto:r.aindow@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk) or Mrs Ewing (Business Manager) and we will do our very best to support you.

Kindest regards,

*S.Kirkbride*

Sarah Kirkbride

Deputy Head Teacher