



**Education Resources**  
Executive Director : **Tony McDaid**  
St John's Primary, Hamilton

**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**  
**If calling ask for:**  
**Phone:**  
**Date:** 29.11.21

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well.

With recent changes to Universal Credit, rising winter fuel bills, increased National Insurance Contributions and Christmas not far around the corner, I am very aware that many families may be facing exceptional financial pressures and I am keen we do everything we can to assist you.

Education Resources has been in discussion with our trusted partners, South Lanarkshire Council's Community Wellbeing Helpline team and Money Matters Advice Services. They can provide free and confidential advice on a range of matters such as:

- Identifying benefits which you may be entitled to, including Free School Meals, Clothing Grants, Education Maintenance Allowance and other welfare benefits
- Assisting in crisis situations such as having no money for food, gas or electricity
- Arranging referrals to other services including Money Matters Advice Services for benefit and debt advice and assistance.

The benefits system can be so complex with many people unaware of the benefits that may be available to them. We know of similar support provided in other schools with many families now better off due to the additional benefits being received as a result of making contact. In some cases, families gained thousands of pounds in backdated benefits.

Please call the Helpline team on 0303 123 1009 if you want to know more about the services offered. Alternatively, scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera to complete a referral form and they will contact you.

If we can help, there is also an option for the school to fill in a form on your behalf. Please just contact us if this would be your preferred option through the school office. As always, our discussion will remain private and confidential. I urge you to give this offer of support your consideration, the service is confidential and may be able to assist.

Yours faithfully,



**Head Teacher**