



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

Dear Families,

## Important changes to Free School Meals

From September 2026, all children whose parents receive Universal Credit can receive Free School Meals (FSM).

From 1 June 2026 there will be two types of FSM:

- *Targeted FSM*: Universal Credit and household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children also qualify for Pupil Premium funding which provides free school meals and additional benefits for both the pupil and the school
- *Expanded FSM*: Universal Credit and earnings above £7,400. This provides free school meals only.

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the Department for Education will remove all transitional protections for FSM. Eligibility will be checked automatically on your behalf, every year before the start of the new school year.

### Action required by 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026:

You need to apply for FSM if your child currently receives FSM, or you think they may be eligible, please complete the short form by clicking [here](#). The outcome of the check will be shared with you and the school.

### Who is Eligible?

From September 2026, eligibility for Free School Meals has been expanded to include all children in households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of income.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with no recourse to public funds.

If you have any questions or need any help applying for Free School Meals, please contact the school office on 0117 377 2200.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Anstice  
Business Manager

