



Important update about Free School Meals from September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know about important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that will take effect from September 2026.

What is changing?

From September 2026, all children whose households receive Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school lunch. This change has been introduced by the government to ensure more children can benefit from a healthy meal at school.

At the same time, the government is ending transitional protection for free school meals. This means that from September 2026, families will need to meet the eligibility criteria each year to continue receiving free school meals. All children will be rechecked from 01/09/2026 eg, if you are on free school meals at present and do not meet the new criteria you may not be entitled from September, 2026.

Why registering still matters

Even if your child already receives free school meals, it is still very important that you:

- Apply or re-confirm your eligibility when asked
- Make sure your details are kept up to date

Registering for FSM also helps schools receive additional funding to support pupils, including for learning, wellbeing and enrichment activities.

What you need to do

If your household receives Universal Credit, your child may now be eligible for free school meals.

You can apply for free school meals by:

Contacting the school office and completing a Free School Meal form **or by clicking on the link in yellow below:-**

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

The school can support you if you need help with the application.

Confidentiality

All applications are treated confidentially. Children receiving free school meals are not identified or treated differently.

If you have any questions or would like support with registering, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Wright

Headteacher

