

Dear families

Important changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

We are writing to let you know about national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that take effect from the start of the autumn term in September 2026. These changes mean that many more families will now qualify for a free school meal for their child.

What is changing

From September 2026, any child whose household receives Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal — regardless of how much the family earns. Until now, families on Universal Credit only qualified if their household earned £7,400 a year or less after tax. That earnings limit is being removed.

If you receive Universal Credit, your child will qualify. It is worth checking your eligibility even if you have applied before and were turned down, or have never applied because you assumed you earned too much.

What this means for you

- If you already receive Universal Credit, your child is likely to be newly eligible — please get in touch so we can check.
- If your child currently receives Free School Meals, please read the separate letter we will send asking you to confirm your details, as entitlement must be re-checked each year.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receive a free lunch automatically. Even so, we would still encourage you to apply if you receive Universal Credit, because registering your child for Free School Meals can bring valuable additional funding to the school.

How to check or apply

Applying is quick and your information is handled securely. To check eligibility, we will usually need the parent/carer's full name, date of birth and National Insurance number (or NASS reference).

To apply for Free School Meals, you can choose the option that suits you best below.

Apply or check online yourself

You can complete a secure check directly at <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>. Simply enter the parent/carer's details and you will receive an instant result. Please ensure you select the correct local authority and academy so the school can verify eligibility.

Ask your school to check for you

Contact your school office and provide the details above. We will check on your behalf and confirm the outcome.

To apply or ask any questions, please contact your school office.

Yours faithfully

Mr Hailwood
Acting Principal