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Headteacher: Mrs. H. Atkinson-Smith. BA(Hons) MA, PGCE

1st June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that will come into effect from September 2026.

Who can get Free School Meals?

From the start of the 2026–2027 academic year, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal, regardless of household income. This will be calculated and split into Targeted and Expanded free school meals and means many more families will now qualify for support.

1. Targeted Free School Meals (Targeted FSM)

This will continue largely as it operates currently.

- Eligibility remains based on the existing income threshold
- Pupils attract Pupil Premium funding
- Families continue to receive:
 - Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) provision
 - Food vouchers (where applicable)

2. Expanded Free School Meals (Expanded FSM)

This is a new category.

- Applies to pupils who:
 - Do not meet the threshold for Targeted FSM
 - Are in households receiving Universal Credit
- This entitlement covers school meals only
- Pupils will not attract Pupil Premium
- **No eligibility for:**
 - Food vouchers
 - HAF provision

What you need to do

If you think your child may be eligible, you must apply so that we can confirm eligibility. Applying is important because your child will receive free meals and the school may receive additional funding to support your child's education (in some cases).

We encourage all families who receive Universal Credit or other qualifying benefits to apply as soon as possible.

Please come into the school office if you need help with this, we can talk you through the process or provide time for you to complete in school.



Annual checks

From September 2026, eligibility will be checked every year. Families must continue to meet the criteria each year to keep receiving free meals.

Infant meals (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2)

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive free meals automatically.

However, if you receive qualifying benefits, you must apply as this can unlock extra funding for the school to meet your child's needs.

When to apply

Applications can be made from June 2026. If approved, your child can receive free meals from the start of the September term.

How to apply

Online FSM Application <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>
or scan the QR Code



Why this matters

Free school meals support children's health and wellbeing, help them focus and learn during the school day, and ensure every child has access to a nutritious meal.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. H. Atkinson-Smith

Headteacher

