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6th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Important – Price increase and changes to Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026

We are writing to inform you of a couple of changes that are being introduced from 1st September 2026.

- The cost of a school meal will be increasing to £3.76.
- Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility is being expanded nationally.

What is changing?

The Government is expanding eligibility so all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals. There will be two types of FSM:

- **Targeted FSM** - for families receiving Universal Credit with household earnings of £7,400 or less per year.
- **Expanded FSM** - for families receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400 per year.

Since 2018, some families have continued to receive FSM even if their circumstances changed. This is known as 'transitional protection'. These protections, along with holiday vouchers, will end from September 2026. This means:

- Some families currently receiving FSM may no longer qualify.
- All families will need to meet the new criteria.
- Eligibility will be checked annually.

Reapplication required

Due to these national changes, **ALL FAMILIES MUST REAPPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS**, even if your child prefers packed lunch. Applying can bring valuable benefits to both your child and the school. Eligibility must be checked and confirmed before pupils can receive free meals. If your child currently receives FSM, you **MUST** submit a new application.

Please complete and return the reply slip attached to confirm you have checked eligibility.

To check if your eligibility please visit: <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app>

What you need to do now

- Check your eligibility online and apply if appropriate.
- Submit your FSM application.
- Ensure your application is completed before September 2026.
- Go to www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp if you need any support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. H. Atkinson-Smith
Headteacher



FREE SCHOOL MEALS – ELIGIBILITY CHECK

(Please return to the school office)

Child's Name:

Class:

Please tick one:

☐ I have checked my eligibility, and my child is eligible for **Targeted FSM**.

☐ I have checked my eligibility, and my child is eligible for **Expanded FSM**.

Parent/Carer Name:

Signature: Date:

