

9th June 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Free School Meals eligibility is changing from the start of the new academic year and **you will need to apply if you meet the new criteria.**

### Upcoming changes

From September 2026, the government is expanding access to Free School Meals so that all children from households receiving Universal Credit can apply. Eligibility will be divided into two groups:

- **Targeted Free School Meals** – for households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400, as well as those receiving certain other qualifying benefits. These pupils also attract additional funding for the school, known as Pupil Premium which is used to support your child during their time with us, and access to schemes such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme.
- **Expanded Free School Meals** – for households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400. These pupils will receive a free school meal but do not attract Pupil Premium funding.

### What you need to do

If your child already receives Free School Meals and you have applied through the Hampshire portal, you do not need to do anything.

If you think your child may now be eligible, please submit an application through the [Hampshire portal](#)

Please note that children eligible under the **expanded criteria** will not begin to receive Free School Meals until **September 2026**.

If you receive Universal Credit but are unsure which FSM category applies, please submit a check anyway – this ensures your child's status is recorded correctly and will enable the school to offer additional support, where appropriate.

### Important information for Reception and Key Stage 1 parents

All children in Early Years Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 already receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, we still encourage you to apply. This is because schools receive Pupil Premium funding for children who qualify under **Targeted Free School Meal eligibility**. This funding helps support your child during their time at school now and into Key Stage 2.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Will all Key Stage 1 children still receive a free meal?

*Yes, UIFSM continues for Year R, 1 & 2.*

Does Expanded Funding bring extra funding to school?

*No, only Targeted FSM generates additional funding for school. Expanded Funding provides a free school meal for eligible children only.*

I'm worried about sharing personal details

*Applications are confidential and processed securely by the Local Authority and the school. Your child's lunch arrangements are managed discreetly.*

For further information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> or speak to Mrs Rook in the school office.

Kind regards,



**Lou Trim**  
**Headteacher**

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*'That they may have life; life in all its fullness' John 10:10*

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