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19th May 2026

Important Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of important changes to the Free School Meals (FSM) scheme that will take effect in schools from September 2026, following new government and school policy updates.

From September, free school meals are being extended to all households in receipt of Universal Credit; the net earnings threshold of £7400 is being removed meaning more families will be eligible for free meals saving them an average of £495 per child a year.

Another big change which will be implemented from September is the change to free school meal protection. Children who are already entitled to FSM will lose their protection at the end of Summer term; therefore, all parents/carers will need to reapply to check their eligibility and to continue receiving free meals in September.

Due to these upcoming changes, we are asking **all families** to please complete and return the attached new free school meals application form so we can check or re-check your eligibility. Please can these be returned by Friday 5th June.

To be able to process the check, the form must be completed in full providing the following information:

- Parents First Name
- Parents Surname
- Parents Date of Birth
- National Insurance Number

Without this information we will be unable to complete your check.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions —our priority is to ensure every child receives the support they need.

Yours sincerely,

L Grieve

Mrs L Grieve
Headteacher

