



"An Academy to be Proud of"

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Subject: Important Update: Expanded Free School Meals Eligibility and Extra Pupil Premium Funding

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of significant government changes to Free School Meals (FSM) funding that could benefit your family and our school.

From September 2026, the criteria for Free School Meals are expanding. Your child may now be eligible for free, healthy meals if you receive **Universal Credit**.

Why You Should Register

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 (and already receives universal infant free school meals) or if you do not want your child to eat a school meal, it is crucial that you apply if you are eligible. Registering for FSM entitles the school to claim Pupil Premium funding, directly enhancing educational support.

How to Apply

Please apply online via <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/fcat>

If your child is already receiving FSM, there is no need to reapply.

Eligibility Criteria (As of September 2026)

You can register for FSM if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit (household income under specified threshold).
- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

Yours sincerely,

Mark Kilmurray
Headteacher

