



Monday 29th June 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Important changes to Free School Meals (from September 2026)

We have been asked to share this information with you all by Kent County Council, regarding the significant nationwide change that is being made to the Free School Meals (FSM) application process by the Department of Education, which will take effect at the start of the upcoming academic year in September 2026.

The Government has recently expanded eligibility for FSM, meaning that every child whose family receives Universal Credit can get free school meals from this date.

Targeted FSM: If your child is already in receipt of benefits related free school meals, your application will be automatically checked before September 2026, you do not have to reapply.

Expanded FSM: A new category for households receiving Universal Credit but have not claimed free school meals before, your child will be eligible for FSM from September 2026, therefore you will need to apply.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2 and already receives the Universal Infant Free School Meal, it is still important for you to apply.

Why?

Applying for Free School Meals can;

- Reduce the cost of school lunches
- Ensure your child receives a healthy meal each day
- Enable the school to access additional funding to support your child's education and wellbeing
- This funding helps provide support such as extra teaching, pastoral care and additional learning resources.

When and how to apply

Applications are now open and to ensure support is in place from the start of the new school year in September 2026, we recommend applying as soon as possible. Please visit the link below for further information about how to apply; [Free school meals - Kent County Council](#)

Yours sincerely

Miss M Sexton - Head Teacher