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Tuesday 17th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

The rules and eligibility for free school meals is changing, with the new Expanded Free School Meals scheme commencing in September 2026.

Currently, households in receipt of Universal Credit must have annual earnings of no more than £7,400 to qualify for Targeted Free School Meals. This also attracts Pupil Premium funding, which enables us to further support your child in school.

Protections on free school meals have been in place since 2018. This means that if a child is eligible for free school meals at any point during their school phase, e.g. primary, they will continue to be eligible, regardless of any changes to household income. **From September 2026, all protections will end.** This means that if your income increases to over £7,400 and you are claiming Universal Credit, your child will transition to Expanded Free School Meals.

Please note – if your child is currently in receipt of free school meals, there is no need to re-apply as the system regularly checks for updates.

Holiday Activity clubs will continue to be offered to children in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals. If you lose eligibility for Targeted Free School Meals due to an increase in your income, your child will no longer receive access to the free holiday clubs.

From the start of the 26-27 academic year, all families in receipt of Universal Credit with a household income over £7,400 will be eligible for Expanded Free School Meals. This means that your child will be eligible to receive a free meal every day. This funding does not attract the Pupil Premium.

If your child is currently in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals and your circumstances have changed, provided you are still claiming Universal Credit, they will automatically be enrolled onto the Expanded Free School Meals scheme, but will lose the Pupil Premium element.

Please click [here](#) to apply for either Targeted Free School Meals or Expanded Free School Meals. Applications should be made before September 2026. This will ensure that your child is able to benefit from free school meals from the start of the new term.

Universal Free School Meals

When children are in Wrens, Jay and Owls they will receive free school meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) scheme. This will remain. If you are claiming Universal Credit and have an annual household income of less than £7,400, please apply for Targeted Free School Meals

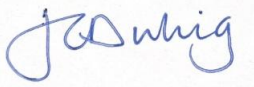


using the link above. If you are on Universal Credit and have an annual household income of over £7,400, there is no need to apply for Expanded Free School Meals until your child reaches Year 3.

Hopefully the attached flow chart will provide a simple explanation of the above.

If you require any assistance with your Free School Meal application, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Duhig', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Jo Duhig
Headteacher