

June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

From September 2026 the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals is changing. There will be a major expansion in eligibility, all pupils in households on Universal Credit (UC) will now qualify for Free School Meals (FSM), meaning new families will now be eligible.

FSM will now fall into two new categories:

Targeted FSM – Those in receipt of UC with household earnings of £7,400 or less

Expanded FSM – Those in receipt of UC with household earnings of more than £7,400 (excluding benefits).

Children in Reception Class, and Years 1 and 2 will still be entitled to free school meals under the Government policy of Universal Free School Meals. However, they may also be eligible for one of the above categories.

Only pupils in receipt of Targeted FSM will now be eligible for the Pupil Premium funding benefits. This funding allows the parents of children to ask for additional support for trips, uniform and other equipment within school. Further information can be found in the Charging Policy publicised on the school website which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). The school may receive additional funding as a result of this and enables an enhanced school provision for your child.

Everyone currently in receipt of Existing FSM (those that have been in place since 2018) will end on the 1st September 2026. Eligibility will be rechecked for you automatically by Kent County Council, you will be categorised as one of the above or if your circumstances have changed you may no longer be eligible. We will contact you in advance of September to let you know if your child's eligibility has changed.

If you think your child may now be eligible for receipt of FSM then the quickest and easiest way to apply for free school meals is online using the link: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

If the application for FSM's is successful the school is then notified. This information is confidential and is only given to those who process this information within the school. If you would like some help in determining whether you meet the specific criteria to apply for extra support, please contact Mrs Dutch or Mrs Stanley on 01622 743 549.

Alternatively the school can apply on your behalf, please complete the form by clicking [here](#).

Kind regards

The School Office