

Farnham Primary School

'Together we discover, believe & achieve.'

9th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

We are writing to let you know about important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will take effect from September 2026.

The Government has announced that, from September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free school meal, regardless of household earnings. This means that many more families will qualify for support than under the current system.

At the same time, the transitional protection arrangements that have been in place since 2018 will come to an end. This means that some children who currently receive free school meals because of these protections may no longer be eligible if their family no longer meets the qualifying criteria.

What do parents need to do?

If you currently receive Universal Credit but have never applied for Free School Meals because your income was above the previous threshold, we strongly encourage you to apply from September 2026.

Even if your child is already receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), registering for Free School Meals may provide additional benefits for your child and our school, including access to extra support and funding where applicable.

If your family circumstances have changed since you last applied, or if you are unsure whether your child will remain eligible, please contact the school office. We can advise you on the application process and help you check your eligibility.

Headteacher: Mrs S Keenan



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Why is it important to apply?

Registering for Free School Meals can help ensure that families receive all the support they are entitled to. In some cases, eligibility may also help schools access additional funding to support children's learning and wellbeing. Eligibility for other schemes may continue to depend on specific criteria, even after the new arrangements begin.

Need help?

If you would like support with an application or would like to discuss your circumstances confidentially, please contact the school office. We are happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Keenan
Headteacher

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