



Courage, Forgiveness, Service, Kindness

June 2026

Dear Parents

Subject: Important changes to Free School Meals from September 2026 – Please check your eligibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share some excellent news regarding an expansion of the Free School Meals scheme. Starting this September 2026, the government has removed the income cap for families receiving Universal Credit.

This means that **every child whose household receives Universal Credit is now eligible for a free school lunch**, regardless of your household earnings.

What this means for your child

- **Reception, Year 1, and Year 2:** All children in these year groups will continue to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically. However, if you receive Universal Credit, we still strongly encourage you to apply formally.
- **Years 3, 4, 5, and 6:** If your child is entering Key Stage 2 and your household is on Universal Credit, they will now be able to receive a free, healthy school lunch every day.

Why applying helps our school

The government is introducing two categories of Free School Meals based on your earnings. Even if your child already receives free meals, registering your Universal Credit status is vital.

When families with an income under £7,400 register, our school receives extra funding called the **Pupil Premium**. We use this money to fund extra teaching assistants, learning resources, and school trips.

How to apply The application process is quick, confidential, and digital. Please visit the [Kent County Council Free School Meals Portal](#) to check your eligibility and apply online before the start of the new term.

If you have previously applied and were turned down because your earnings were above the threshold, please reapply now.

If you need any support with your application or do not have internet access, please pop into the school office where our team will be very happy to help you.

Warm regards,

Mrs S Branson

School Business Manager

Mrs Sarah Holman, Headteacher

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