



Dear Parents/Carers,

Free School Meal (FSM) Changes for the New Academic Year starting September 2026.

Please read and action if appropriate.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 has extended eligibility to receive free school meals (FSM) to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit from the start of the 2026-27 academic year.

In addition, one of the main changes is the requirement to re-check pupils' eligibility annually. For children that currently receive FSM, this check will be automatically undertaken by Kent County Council during the summer holiday and parents/carers will be advised if their child(ren) is no longer eligible.

If you think that your child may be eligible for FSM, please make an application via the KCC website:- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals>

The application will be assessed immediately and please note that if your child is eligible, they do not need to have a school meal.

Please make an application even if your child is in Years R, 1 or 2, as although they receive a free school meal under the current Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme, by being eligible for FSM provides additional funding for the school.

If you would like any help with this, please contact the school office.

Regards,
Jodie Price
Acting Headteacher
St Eanswythe's CE Primary School