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Monday 29th June 2026

Dear Families,

We would like to let you know about an important change to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility from September 2026.

The Government has announced that from September 2026, **all** children in England whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to a **free** school meal each day, *regardless* of household income.

What is changing?

At the moment, families must earn less than £7,400 per year (after tax, not including benefits) to qualify for benefits-related free school meals.

From September 2026, this income limit will be removed for families receiving Universal Credit, meaning more children will be eligible.

When will this start?

This change will begin at the start of the 2026–27 school year in September 2026.

Do I still need to apply?

Yes. You must apply for Free School Meal entitlement, it isn't automatic. You can do this using the following link:

[Free School Meals](#)

My child already receives free school meals – do I need to do anything?

No. If your child already receives benefits-related free school meals (not Universal Infant FSM), your eligibility will be checked automatically.

What do I need to do now?

If you need support completing the form, please click the following link [Contact us | Nottinghamshire County Council](#), alternatively let our school office know and we will do our best to help!

Kind regards,

Debbie Sansom

Deputy Headteacher