

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

Dear Parent/Carer in receipt of Free School Meals

You must complete a Free School Meal (FSM) application if you wish for your child to continue to receive a free school meal from September 2026, there are important changes coming into effect.

### **What's Staying the Same – until August 2026**

If your child has been eligible for FSM at any time between April 2018 and August 2026, they will continue to receive FSM this school year

### **What's Changing in September 2026**

Every family who currently receives FSM will have to be re-checked under new criteria for FSM entitlement, regardless of current entitlement. Those who do not meet the updated criteria will see their current FSM entitlement end as at the 31/08/2026.

From 1st August 2026, all parents should apply using the online form.

**APPLICATION LINK:** <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

Your child will get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (Targeted award)
- Universal Credit (Expanded award from September 2026), regardless of household income

We ask the form is completed before your child arrives in September 2026, as delayed receipt of the application will result in your child not receiving meals from school until eligibility is confirmed.

The Education Welfare Benefits (EWB) team Cambridgeshire County Council will check FSM eligibility and inform the school of entitlement for the whole school year. Please do not apply before 1st August for any applications for the next academic year as any claims made before this date will still be processed under the current guidelines and thresholds.

### **Need More Information?**

Please see attached and check out the website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

If you have any questions, please email the Education Welfare Benefits Service (Free School Meals Team) on [ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or 01223 703200

If you require any further information, please contact us via the school website

Kind regards,  
Ken Stimpson Academy