

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

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently updated its guidance on Free School Meals (FSM), with important changes coming into effect from September 2026. This means your child may become eligible for free school meals from 1st September 2026.

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)
- **From September 2026 receiving Universal Credit, regardless of the household income.**

If you believe you are entitled to free school meals, you should apply using the online form via website **after 1st August 2026.**

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

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 at 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 next academic year as any claims made before this date will still be processed under the current DfE 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