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Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Free School Meals: Changes for the 2026-2027 Academic Year**

The government has announced that the eligibility criteria for free school meals will change from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026.

From that date children will be entitled to free school meals if their parents or carers receive **any form of universal credit**. However not all children who qualify will be entitled to other associated school-related benefits. Information relating to this will be shared when it is available.

If you are not currently entitled to Free School Meals but are in receipt of Universal Credit, please apply online as soon as possible [Free school meals | East Sussex County Council](#). This will ensure there is sufficient time to process applications ahead of the start of the new school year.

Please note that if you are currently in receipt of free school meals, eligibility will be re-checked under the new criteria and you do not need to re-apply.

Please don't hesitate to contact your school office if you have any questions relating to these changes.

Kind regards,

Matt Dean  
Interim Executive Headteacher

