



Willow Lane
Community Primary School

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Important: Free School Meal Changes for 2026–2027 – Please Apply Now

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that will come into effect from the start of the **2026–2027 academic year**.

From September 2026, **all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal** when attending Willow Lane CP School.

There will now be **two categories of benefits-based Free School Meals**:

- **Targeted FSM** – This continues under the existing criteria for families receiving Universal Credit with an annual household income of **£7,400 or less**.
- **Expanded FSM (new)** – This applies to children in households receiving Universal Credit who **do not meet the £7,400 threshold** but are still eligible under the expanded criteria.

Why applying is important

Even though eligibility is expanding, **it is essential that parents still apply**. Registering your child for Free School Meals helps the school to:

- Ensure your child receives their entitlement
- Secure additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support learning and resources for all pupils

Please follow this link to apply: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Thank you for your support in ensuring all children receive the benefits they are entitled to.

Willow Lane School Office

