

01 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium (PP) – Important Information for September 2026

We are writing to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium (PP) that will come into effect from September 2026.

The Government has expanded eligibility for Free School Meals, meaning that more children will now qualify. Children in families receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to receive a free school meal, subject to an eligibility check.

From September 2026, there will be two categories of Free School Meals

- **FSM Targeted** - for households with an annual income of £7,400 or below, and in receipt of universal credits.
- **FSM Expanded** - for households who **only** receive universal credits.

We strongly encourage **all parents and carers to apply**, including families with children in:

- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Years 3–13

Although children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, it is still essential that families apply for Free School Meals if they may be eligible. This is because a successful application can enable the school to receive **Pupil Premium funding**, which provides additional resources to support teaching, learning, intervention programmes, pastoral support, enrichment activities and other opportunities that benefit pupils.

A successful FSM application may:

- Provide your child with free school meals where eligible.
- Enable the school to receive additional Pupil Premium funding.
- Help us provide targeted academic and wellbeing support.
- Improve the resources and opportunities available to pupils across the academy.

Even if your child already receives a free meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, an FSM application can still unlock valuable additional funding for the school.

Is FSM Automatic if I Receive Universal Credit?

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No. Free School Meals are **not awarded automatically**. Families must complete an application so their eligibility can be checked and confirmed.

My child already gets free school meals; do I need to do anything?

Yes, as the old transitional protection rules end at the end of the is academic year (2025/26). That means schools are expected to recheck eligibility before or at the start of the new school year (2026/27). Do not assume your child will still be eligible for free school meals until a new check has taken place.

What Do I Need To Do?

Please complete the Free School Meals and Pupil Premium form which can be accessed here: [FSM and PP form](#) or complete the Buckinghamshire Council Free School Meals and Pupil Premium form which can be found on our website [FSM and PP website](#). If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of the form, these can be collected from both Primary and Secondary receptions.

Need Help?

If you would like assistance completing an application or would like to discuss eligibility, please contact the school office or email inclusion@theacademy.me We will be happy to help.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that all eligible children and families receive the funding and support available to them.

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Currier
Assistant Principal

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