Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: ACTION REQUIRED Update to Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

We're getting in touch to let you know about some upcoming changes to the **free school meals** system that will begin next term. We want to make sure everyone has plenty of time to understand what's happening and what you may need to do.

- From **1st September 2026**, all children with a parent/carer who gets any level of Universal Credit can have free school meals.
- From **1st August 2026** all parents who have Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit can apply to Somerset Council under the new criteria.

There will be two levels of eligibility:

- **Targeted** - FSM for families who get Universal Credit and earn less than £7,400 per year. Families who get other qualifying benefits may also be entitled. Eligibility for FSM will start from date of approval for this group. Families in the Targeted group may be able to access further related benefits, e.g. Pupil Premium, Holiday Activities & Food Programme.
- **Expanded** - FSM for families who get Universal Credit with earnings over £7,400 per year. Expanded FSM covers free school meals only. Eligibility for FSM will start from 1 September 2026 for this group.

Unfortunately, Somerset Council will not be able to process new claims until August. You can apply here: Free school meals

Anyone already awarded free school meals who is attending a Somerset school **will automatically be rechecked to see if they still qualify**. Anyone who no longer qualifies will stop receiving free school meals from September 2026.

Ever 6 and PP: Pupil Premium allocated before September 2026 will continue to be paid under the Ever 6 rule. After September 2026 only pupils in the Targeted group will attract PP and be covered by Ever 6.

To allow our canteen to plan for provision of FSM in September, we ask that if you will be able to claim FSM for your child/ren under the expanded FSM scheme that you fill in the form below.

Let us know if you will be claiming under the new criteria: Expanded Free School Meals – Fill in form

Thank you for your time and support with completing these forms if necessary.

Yours Sincerely,

The PP Team

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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Crewkerne & Ilminster Schools Partnership
Work, Play & Learn Together