



Meadowcroft Community Primary School • Little Green Lane • Chertsey • KT16 9PT  
[info@meadowcroft.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@meadowcroft.surrey.sch.uk)  
01932 561419

---

**Dear Parents and Carers**

## **Changes to Free School Meals – action required**

The Government is introducing significant changes to Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026. We are writing to explain how these changes may affect your family and if you think your child may now qualify under the new rules.

### **What is changing?**

#### **Expanded eligibility**

From September 2026, all families receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals. This means the previous household income cap for receiving a free meal is being removed.

#### **End of transitional protections**

The previous “transitional protections” arrangement is ending. This means that eligibility for Free School Meals awarded in the past will no longer automatically continue. You must complete a FSM eligibility form, if you think your child may now qualify under the new rules.

#### **New annual eligibility checks**

In line with new Government requirements, schools must now carry out compulsory termly eligibility checks for families not currently receiving FSM support.

#### **The new FSM categories**

From September 2026, benefits-related Free School Meals will fall into two categories:



Meadowcroft Community Primary School • Little Green Lane • Chertsey • KT16 9PT  
[info@meadowcroft.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@meadowcroft.surrey.sch.uk)  
01932 561419

---

### **Targeted FSM**

For families receiving Universal Credit and earning £7,400 or less per year.

This includes:

- Free school meals
- Pupil Premium funding
- Holiday activity support

### **Expanded FSM**

For families receiving Universal Credit and earning above £7,400 per year.

This entitlement includes:

- Free school meals only

### **What do you need to do?**

#### **If you think you may now be eligible**

If you receive Universal Credit but were previously refused Free School Meals because your earnings were above the old threshold, your child may now qualify under the new rules.

#### **How to apply**

Please complete the FSM Eligibility Form using the following link:

**[Free School Meal Eligibility Registration \(Autumn Term\)](#)**

#### **Important deadline**

If we do not receive your eligibility confirmation before the start of the new academic year, your child will not be registered for Free School Meals from September 2026.

To ensure your entitlement is set up in Sims in time for September, please apply as soon as possible and no later than **Thursday 9 July 2026**.



**Meadowcroft Community Primary School • Little Green Lane • Chertsey • KT16 9PT**  
[info@meadowcroft.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@meadowcroft.surrey.sch.uk)  
01932 561419

---

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we transition to the new system.

Please note that all current Free School Meal entitlements will remain in place until the end of the Summer Term.

Yours faithfully

Jacqueline Underwood  
Head