

# Uplands Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

The government has recently announced important changes to free school meal (FSM) eligibility for September. In summary:

- All families in receipt of Universal Credit **will** be entitled to free school meals
- Families who currently receive free school meals under the 'protected' scheme (introduced during the transition to Universal Credit in 2018) **MAY NOT** automatically remain eligible from September – they will need to meet the new criteria.

**If your child currently receives free school meals** – this will continue until the end of this school year.

- If you then **still meet the eligibility criteria**, this entitlement will continue into the next academic year – you do not need to take any action
- If you will **no longer meet the criteria** (for example you are no longer receiving Universal Credit), free school meals will stop. If this is the case, and you would like your child to still have a school dinner each day, please add funds to their dinner account on SCOPAY for when school returns in September. You are of course welcome to send them with a packed lunch instead.

**If you receive Universal Credit but your child does not currently receive free school meals** – from September your child(ren) will be entitled to free school meals.

If you think you may be eligible, please apply using the link [here](#) as soon as possible to ensure everything is in place when we come back to school in September. You will need your national insurance number for the application.

Your application may initially show as unsuccessful (as we are not yet at the end of this school year) but will be reassessed for September.

## Pupil Premium

Currently, students who receive free school meals also get **Pupil Premium Funding** which provides additional resources and support. From September, a two-tier system is being introduced:

### 1 – Targeted FSM

This is for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less. School **will** continue to receive Pupil Premium Funding for these pupils

### 2 – Expanded FSM

For pupils in households receiving Universal Credit but above the £7,400 income threshold, school **will not** receive Pupil Premium Funding for these pupils.



### **Universal Free School Meals (UFSM)**

Children in Year's R, 1 and 2 will still continue to get their lunch provided for free from our caterers until they move into Year 3. This is a different system to that listed above – UFSM are for all younger pupils. However, if you think you meet the criteria outlined above we gratefully ask you to make sure you make an application, **as this can impact on how funding is allocated to school.**

If you have any questions, please speak to the office who will be able to help you.

Many thanks

Uplands