



Dear Families

21st July 2026

Re: Free School Meals (FSM) Auto Award Process

From September 2026, the Department for Education (DfE) will expand the FSM eligibility criteria:

FSM entitlement will no longer be 'protected' once awarded. Instead, eligibility will need to be checked at the start of each academic year. All households on Universal Credit will qualify. Income limits will no longer apply. There will be 2 tiers linked to the removal of the income limits;

Targeted Free School Meals for the 2026/2027 academic year; your household has met the Universal Credit household income threshold (under £7400). Your children will be entitled to a free school meal, a free code to access the Time2Move Holiday Programme during the relevant school holidays (Easter, Summer and Christmas) and the school will receive Pupil Premium funding.

Expanded Free School Meals for the 2026/2027 academic year; your household has met the Universal Credit household income threshold (above £7400). Your children will be entitled to a free school meal only. Your child/ren will not qualify for a free Time2Move Holiday code to access the T2M Holiday Programme and the school will not receive Pupil Premium funding.

We are sending every family this letter to ensure all learners who are eligible to receive Free School Meals and Pupil Premium funding are aware of, and given guidance on, how to apply to receive this.

Cornwall County Council are starting a new way to help more children get free school meals. From the 2026/27 school year, they will use information they already have to find households who may qualify. This means some households will not need to apply. They will check if you are eligible automatically, unless you choose to opt out. This process will use data they already hold to identify students who may be eligible for FSM. This includes:

- current FSM claimants
- households receiving Housing Benefit
- households Council Tax support

Where households are identified as potentially eligible:

- Cornwall County Council will contact you directly to advise that they intend to run an eligibility check unless you opt out within a two-week period
- if no optout is received eligibility checks will be completed by Cornwall County Council
- eligible students will be automatically registered for FSM and families and schools will be notified,

Families who are identified by this process will still need to apply for free school meals via the [Parent Portal](#).

We encourage families to apply should they believe they qualify but have not been contacted by Cornwall Council by 1st August 2026.

Yours sincerely

Mr Murray-Adams
Assistant Headteacher