



Coxheath Primary School

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4th September 2026

Free School Meals – More families are now eligible

Dear Parents and Carers,

From 1st September 2026 the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) has been expanded and additional families are now eligible for this - **all pupils living in households receiving Universal Credit will now qualify for Free School Meals.**

If you think your child may now be eligible, the quickest and easiest way to apply is online using this link: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>.

What does this mean for my child?

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive free school meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals policy.

However, if your child is in one of these year groups and your household meets the new FSM eligibility criteria, we would still encourage you to apply. This is because there may be additional support and benefits available to your child and family.

There are now two categories of Free School Meals:

Targeted FSM – Those in receipt of Universal Credit with household earnings of £7,400 or less (excluding benefits)

Expanded FSM – Those in receipt of Universal Credit with household earnings of more than £7,400 (excluding benefits)

Only pupils who qualify for Targeted FSM will be eligible for the additional benefits associated with Pupil Premium funding. This funding can provide families with access to additional support towards costs such as school trips, uniform and other essential school equipment. For further information, please contact the school office or refer to our Charging and Remissions Policy at: www.coppiceprimarypartnership.kent.sch.uk

The school may also receive additional funding when a pupil is registered for Targeted FSM. This funding helps us to provide enhanced support and opportunities.

Confidentiality

We understand that some parents and carers may feel concerned about a stigma associated with receiving Free School Meals. Please be assured that FSM information is treated confidentially and is only shared with members of staff who need to process this information. The school is also only notified when an application is successful, and receiving Free School Meals will not identify your child to other pupils or families.



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If you have any questions about Free School Meals, or if you would like the school to support you with making an application, please contact Mrs Kite in the school office.

Yours sincerely,

The School Office