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Headteacher: Mr Adam Rowland

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Dear parent/carers,

Re: expanded free school meal (FSM) eligibility and the pupil premium

Your child may newly qualify for free school meals, and we want to encourage you to register them. From September 2026, all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit are eligible for free school meals. Your household income doesn't matter – as long as you receive Universal Credit, your child can claim free school meals.

Why register for free school meals?

Pupils who are registered for free school meals will get healthy, nutritious and balanced food at school that helps make sure they're ready to learn and thrive at school.

Registering your child for free school meals is also important because the school might get extra 'pupil premium' funding from the government.

If you prefer your child to have packed lunches, don't worry – they can still have these if they're registered for free school meals.

Is my child eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium?

Targeted FSM – your child may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit and have an annual household income of £7,400 or less

Pupils receiving targeted FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will attract pupil premium funding for the school

Expanded FSM – your child is eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit and have an annual household income of over £7,400

Pupils receiving expanded FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will not attract pupil premium funding.

How do I apply?

Apply online here - <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#how-to-apply>

My child already has free school meals: are they still eligible?

From September 2026, all pupils will need to meet the eligibility criteria above to receive free school meals. This includes pupils who already have free school meals. If your child has already been registered for free school meals, you do not need to apply again this year

Best wishes,
Woodlands Meed