



# Fair Field Junior School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Leggett

**Assistant Head of School:** Mrs O'Sullivan

**Assistant Head of School:** Mrs Parmar

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

## **Re: Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026 – Please Apply Now**

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to inform you about an important change to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility for families receiving Universal Credit that will come into effect from September 2026.

The Government has announced that from September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings. This change is expected to help many more families access valuable support and ensure that children receive a healthy meal during the school day.

While this is welcome news, it is important that families apply for Free School Meals as soon as they become eligible, rather than waiting until September 2026.

### **Who should apply?**

Applications can now be made, and we encourage all parents and carers who receive Universal Credit or other qualifying benefits to check your eligibility and apply, even if you have applied before and been refused. We recommend you do this before end of term in July to ensure you can access this at the start of the new academic year.

**PLEASE NOTE: Children who already receive free school meals do not need to reapply unless contacted by the school or local authority. The only exception to this is current year 2's, where a new application is required.**

### **How do I apply?**

To apply please visit:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply. The process takes no more than 5 minutes, is confidential and could unlock valuable support for your child and the school.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that every child has access to the opportunities and resources they need to thrive.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Leggett  
Headteacher

