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25<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Important Changes to Free School Meals and Summer Holiday Support

We are writing to inform you about important upcoming changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect from **1 September 2026**, as well as details on temporary holiday food support available this summer.

### 1. Free School Meal Eligibility Changes (Action Required)

To ensure that your child continues to receive Free School Meals if they are currently entitled, or to allow us to assess whether they may become eligible under the new arrangements, we ask all parents and carers to complete our updated assessment form.

Please complete the form using the link below by **30 June 2026**:

[Complete the FSM Eligibility Form](#)

#### What is changing?

From September, there will be different categories of Free School Meal entitlement:

- **Targeted (Benefits-Related) Free School Meals:** Children whose families meet specific benefits-related eligibility criteria. In addition to a free meal, eligible pupils attract vital additional funding for the school through the Pupil Premium and access to other support programmes.
- **Expanded Free School Meals:** From 1 September 2026, the Government is extending eligibility so that **all** children living in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal, regardless of household earnings.
- **Transitional Protection Ending:** Since 2018, some pupils have continued to receive Free School Meals under transitional protection arrangements. **These protections will end on 31 August 2026.** As a result, all families must have their eligibility re-checked under the new arrangements for meals to continue in September.

#### What You Need to Do

To ensure there is no interruption to your child's meals, please complete the Google form link above by **30 June 2026**, even if:



The Brilliant Club



The Scholars Programme



- Your child currently receives Free School Meals.
- Your child has previously received Free School Meals.
- You receive Universal Credit.
- You think your child may now be eligible under the new expanded criteria.

**Please Note:** If the form is not completed by 30 June 2026, we may be unable to confirm your child's eligibility in time for the new term, which could result in a delay or interruption to Free School Meal provision.

## 2. Summer Holiday Food Support (Rossendale Borough Council)

Lancashire County Council previously provided food vouchers during school holidays for children entitled to Free School Meals; however, this funding has now ended.

To help families during this transition, **Rossendale Borough Council** is working with local community food organisations to offer one-off food support during the upcoming summer holidays for eligible children who receive Free School Meals.

Eligible families can sign up to receive **one food bag per child, per week**, during the summer holidays by following the link below: [Apply for Rossendale Holiday Food Support](#)

If you require any assistance completing either of these forms or would like further information, please contact Mrs Lord via the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Oliver  
Headteacher

