Grimoldby Primary School

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Friday 25th September 2026

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium from September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium funding that came into effect from September 2026.

We understand that these changes may be confusing, so we want to explain what they mean for your family and encourage all eligible parents to apply.

What is changing?

From September 2026, all children from households receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to a free school meal. There are now two categories of FSM:

Targeted Free School Meals

Children whose household receives Universal Credit and has annual earnings of £7,400 or less (excluding benefits), along with certain other qualifying groups.

Expanded Free School Meals

Children from households receiving Universal Credit who do not meet the Targeted FSM income threshold.

Why should I apply?

Even if your child already receives a meal at school through Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), it is still important to apply if you are eligible.

Being registered for Targeted FSM may provide additional support for your child and helps the school access valuable funding through the Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium funding helps schools provide additional support such as:

- Extra teaching and intervention support
- Educational visits and enrichment opportunities
- Resources and equipment

- Wellbeing and pastoral support
- Additional assistance with trips and after school clubs

What is Ever 6 FSM?

If a child has previously been eligible for Targeted FSM, they remain part of the Ever 6 FSM group for six years and may continue to attract Pupil Premium funding for the school during that period.

This means that even if your circumstances change, your child's previous eligibility can still benefit the school through additional funding.

Important information for families

The previous protection arrangements that automatically allowed some children to continue receiving free meals have now ended. From September 2026, families must meet the current eligibility criteria to continue receiving free school meals.

For this reason, we strongly encourage all families receiving Universal Credit to check their eligibility and submit an application.

How do I apply?

Applications can be made through Lincolnshire County Council's Free School Meals application process.

If you are unsure whether you qualify, we would encourage you to apply anyway. Many families are surprised to find they are eligible.

If you would like any support completing an application or checking your eligibility, please contact Miss Grove in the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Hayley Thomas
School Business Manager