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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers

Important Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium (PP) Funding Action Required

We are writing to inform you about important government updates to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that have been introduced.

Entitlement this 2025-2026 academic year will NOT ROLL OVER to the new 2026-2027 academic year.

It is your responsibility as parents/carers to check your entitlement will continue.

The new changes may entitle your family to additional support, so we strongly encourage you to read this information carefully and take action as soon as possible.

What is changing?

From the start of the new academic year, the Department for Education (DfE) is expanding FSM eligibility. Currently, all pupils from households receiving Universal Credit are entitled to receive a free meal at school.

The government has now introduced two categories for this entitlement:

1. **Targeted FSM:** Continues to be based on an annual net earned income threshold of £7,400 (after tax). Pupils in this tier qualify for both free meals and the Pupil Premium grant.
2. **Expanded FSM:** Applies to pupils in households receiving Universal Credit who do not meet the £7,400 threshold. Pupils in this tier are entitled to free meals, but do not automatically qualify for Pupil Premium.

What is Pupil Premium (PP) and why does it matter?

While an "Expanded FSM" provides your child with a free lunch, the **Pupil Premium** is an additional grant that the school receives directly. This funding is crucial for enhancing your child's education and is used to provide:

- Subsidised school trips and extracurricular activities.
- Targeted academic support and pastoral care.
- Essential equipment, learning resources, and uniform assistance.

What Do You Need to Do?

Even if you believe you are automatically entitled, **all parents and carers must apply, or to have your eligibility officially assessed**, please click this link

[More Dorset children could qualify for free school meals - Dorset Council](#)

We don't want anyone to miss out, and please be assured that the application process is strictly confidential, peers will not know your child is registered for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium support.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Hales
Headteacher

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