

29 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Changes to Free School Meals eligibility

We are writing to let you know about **two** important changes that the government is making to who can get Free School Meals (FSM) from September.

Please read the information below and take any action needed to make sure your child/children get what they are entitled to both at school and during school holidays.

Every child who is registered for FSM also means additional funding for the school. By taking a few minutes to register your child/children you will be making a really important difference to them and their classmates.

From September 2026:

Change 1: If your family receives Universal Credit – no matter how much you earn – your child/children **is now eligible** for FSM. However, this won't happen automatically. You will **need to apply**.

Change 2: If your child is currently receiving benefits-related FSM the Local Authority must now **recheck your eligibility every year**, to see whether your child/children can continue to receive them. Your child/children won't automatically get FSM in September if you are no longer receiving qualifying benefits.

What do I need to do next?

The FSM application and checking system is now open for the new school year. To make sure your child/children get what they are entitled to in September, please complete your check or application by **Friday 10th July 2026**.

You can apply online via the Wandsworth Council portal or check your eligibility directly here:

<https://fsm.lgfl.net/>

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schools-and-admissions/schools/schools-financial-help/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

What if I need help with the application or recheck?

If you would like support with your application or have questions about the changes, please contact our school office team in confidence at office@chestertonschool.org.uk

Chesterton Primary School

Danine Smith, Executive Headteacher Alex Green, Head of School
Dagnall Street, Battersea, London, SW11 5DT www.chestertonschool.org.uk
T 020 7622 1619 E office@chestertonschool.org.uk



**My child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and - like all children in these year groups - they get FSM.
Do I need to do anything?**

The government provides extra money to our school based on how many children are registered for FSM. If you receive Universal Credit – and haven't already registered for FSM – we really encourage you to do so as it will unlock important new funding for the school which will benefit your child/children and their classmates.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us prepare for a great start to the new school year.

Warm regards,

Alex Green
Head of School

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