



Hipsburn Primary School, Lesbury, ALNWICK, Northumberland. NE66 3PX

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Headteacher Mr Kevin Moloney

9.7.26

Important Changes to Free School Meals

Universal free school meals

All pupils in reception, year one, and year two are entitled to a free meal, without having to apply for this option. However, if you feel you may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) it is important that you apply immediately as FSM eligibility means other resources may be available to the school and your child including pupil premium.

Income Based Free School Meals

Changes for 2026 to 2027 academic year

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending will be entitled to receive a free meal.

Going forward, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

Targeted Free School Meals, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less

Expanded Free School Meals, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

What do the changes to free school meals mean?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

From September 2026, it is the Department for Education's intention that all protections will be discontinued, alongside an extension to the eligibility criteria for free school meals. From this point, households must meet the eligibility criteria to be entitled to free school meals.

If you have any questions please contact: Free School Meals at NCC on 0345 600 6400

To apply : https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Kind regards

Miss A Solomon

Office Manager





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