

10th June 2026

## Important Free School Meals (FSM) Information

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Please carefully read all the information below as it contains important information for ALL parents/carers, even if you are already entitled to free school meals, have recently completed an eligibility form or think you are eligible for FSM.**

The criteria eligibility for free school meals is changing ahead of the new academic year (2026 - 2027) and I have summarised these key changes for you below;

- If a household is in receipt of Universal Credit and earns less than £7400 a year in total - every child in the household will become eligible and this will be known as 'targeted free school meals'. Pupils in this tier also qualify for the Pupil Premium.
- If a household is in receipt of Universal Credit and earns more than £7400 a year in total - every child in the household will become eligible and this will be known as 'expanded free school meals'. These pupils get free meals but do not automatically qualify for the Pupil Premium.
- All families who are currently eligible for free school meals will continue until the end of this academic year. After which, without completing a new request form, your free school meal entitlement will end. **This means that everyone will be required to complete another free school meal eligibility form (enclosed). This will be an annual requirement and circumstances will be checked at the end of each school year.**

**ACTION:** There is action required from all parents/carers so please read the following information.



Enclosed with this information is a covering letter and the new free school meal eligibility form which **must be completed by all parents/carers for every child**. Please complete this form and return it to the office **no later than Friday 26th June 2026**.

Once all forms have been received, the school will make the necessary checks for you and if you are eligible, you will be notified via MCAS message by no later than Friday 28th August. **If you do not receive an MCAS message, please assume that you are not eligible and you will need to start paying for your children's school lunches via MCAS from the start of term in September.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school via [info@pipersvale.org.uk](mailto:info@pipersvale.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,

**Kimberly Morton**  
Principal