



# NEWTOWN LINFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers

## Free School Meals Expansion

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year (Wednesday 26th August) the government is expanding Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility to include children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. Free School Meals will be split into two categories.

**Targeted FSM** – This continues to be based on earnings; to be eligible the household must be receiving Universal Credit and have a household income of £7,400 or less. Families in this category will continue to be eligible for additional educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme and the Pupil Premium.

**Expanded FSM** – This is a new category covering pupils whose families are in receipt of Universal Credit but do not qualify for the Targeted FSM funding. Eligible children will receive free school meals only.

**All current eligibility for Free School Meals will end and every family will need to reapply.**

- **If your child CURRENTLY receives Free School Meals**  
Existing FSM children will automatically have their eligibility rechecked by Leicestershire County Council during the summer holidays and we will let you know the outcome once the school receives it - most likely in mid-to-late August.

If your household receives Universal Credit they should continue to receive FSM. If your household no longer receives Universal Credit, they are unlikely to be eligible, and FSM will cease from Aug 26.

- **If your child DOESN'T currently receive Free School Meals, but your household receives Universal Credit.**

You should be eligible from the start of the 2026/27 academic year, BUT YOU MUST APPLY to give permission for your Universal Credit records to be checked.

This can currently only be done through Leicestershire County Council via the following link: <https://leicestershire.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/>



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You will need your National Insurance Number, Date of Birth and Legal Names.

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible. If eligible, your child's Free School meals will start on Wednesday 26th August.

Eligible students will receive FSM for the whole 2026-27 academic year, before being rechecked for eligibility in the summer of 2027 for the 2027-28 academic year. Entitlement to free school meals is no longer protected for the entire duration of a child's time at school.

There is no change to Universal Infant Free School Meals and pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Two will continue to receive free school meals. You do not need to apply for Universal Infant Free School Meals as this is an automatic entitlement. However, if your child is in Reception, Year One or Year Two and you meet the criteria for Targeted FSM, you will need to apply so that you can also access the additional entitlements.

Please contact the school office for advice and guidance if you are unclear on next steps.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Chapple', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mr D Chapple  
Headteacher

