



Blackbrook
School

Aspiration Fairness Kindness Responsibility Teamwork

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Free School Meals: Could Your Child Now Be Eligible?

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know about an important national change to free school meals which came into effect from September 2026.

The Government has expanded eligibility so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit are now entitled to free school meals, meaning that **many more families may now qualify than previously**.

We strongly encourage any parent or carer who receives Universal Credit to check their eligibility and make an application.

Why should I apply?

If your child is eligible, they will be able to receive a free school meal each day, which could save families hundreds of pounds each year. **In addition, registering eligibility may help the school access additional funding to support children's learning and wellbeing.**

My child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. Do I still need to apply?

Yes. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to receive a free school meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, **if your household receives Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit, it is still important that you register.**

This helps ensure that any additional support your child may be entitled to is correctly identified and that the school receives the funding available to support pupils.

Who should apply?

We encourage you to apply if:

- You receive Universal Credit.
- Your circumstances have changed since you last checked eligibility.
- Your child currently brings a packed lunch but you think you may now qualify.
- Your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and you receive Universal Credit.

- You are unsure whether you qualify.

You do not need to work out the eligibility rules yourself. Simply apply and the relevant checks will be carried out.

How do I apply?

Applications can be made through Somerset Council's Free School Meals portal:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>

We are here to help

We understand that many families continue to face financial pressures. A healthy school meal can make a real difference to children's wellbeing, concentration and readiness to learn.

If you think you may be eligible, please do take a few minutes to apply.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,

Mr D. Seviour

[Headteacher](#)