



KEMPSHOTT INFANT SCHOOL

LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING THE EXTRAORDINARY!

Dear Parents and Carers,

This email explains upcoming changes to eligibility for benefits based Free School Meals (FSM). It also outlines what you need to do to apply or check your child's eligibility.

ARE YOU IN RECEIPT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT? If yes, we please ask that you apply via this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

Upcoming Changes

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals will change.

All households receiving Universal Credit will be included, but eligibility will be divided into two groups:

- **Targeted Free School Meals**

For households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400.

- **Expanded Free School Meals**

For households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400.

Both groups will have access to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, when available. Food vouchers may also be available through the Household Support Fund

What You Need to Do

- If your child already receives Free School Meals and you have applied through the Hampshire portal, you do not need to do anything.
- If you think your child may now be eligible, please submit an application through the Hampshire portal (link at top of page).

Important Information for Reception and Key Stage 1 Parents

All Infant school children already receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, we still encourage you to apply. This is because schools receive **Pupil Premium funding** for children who qualify under **Targeted Free School Meal eligibility**. This funding helps support your child during their time at school.

Children who attract pupil premium funding at Kempshott Infant School will benefit from:

- free school trips
- 2 school jumpers or cardigans per school year
- additional support and monitoring within school
- free milk daily (if required)
- 2 half terms of after school sports clubs (if required)

Transitional Protections (until August 2026)

Transitional protections have been in place since 1 April 2018 and will continue until the end of the 2025 to 2026 school year.

During this time:

- Any child who becomes eligible for benefits based Free School Meals will continue to receive them until July 2026.
- This will not change even if household income increases.

From **September 2026**, these protections will end. From this point, all families must meet the new eligibility rules for their child to receive Free School Meals.