



*If we believe,  
we will achieve.*

## Chalkwell Hall Junior School

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Headteacher: Andy Newnham

4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

From September 2026, the Government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM).

Under the new arrangements, all children from households receiving Universal Credit may now be entitled to Free School Meals. There will be two categories of eligibility:

- Targeted FSM
- Expanded FSM

To ensure all eligible families receive the support available to them, we are asking all families to complete the attached form and return it by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Please complete the form even if:

- your child currently has packed lunches;
- you are unsure whether you qualify;
- your child may not wish to take school meals regularly;
- or you do not currently claim Free School Meals.

Why this matters

Registering for Free School Meals:

- may entitle your child to free school meals;
- helps schools receive additional Government funding;
- supports schools in planning catering, staffing and meal provision;
- and helps ensure eligible pupils receive the support available to them.

Even if your child chooses not to take school meals, registering may still provide additional funding and support for the school.

Annual eligibility checks

The Department for Education now requires schools to complete eligibility checks annually and record eligibility accurately for census and funding purposes.

The information provided on this form will allow the school and/or local authority to:

- check eligibility through the Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service;
- confirm whether pupils qualify for Targeted FSM or Expanded FSM;
- and plan appropriately for September 2026 and beyond.

Completing this form does not commit your child to taking a school meal every day.





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### Confidentiality

All information provided will be handled securely and confidentially and used only for:

- checking Free School Meal eligibility;
- securing appropriate school funding;
- and planning provision appropriately.

Completion of this form may be followed by further communication if additional information or formal verification is required.

Please complete one form per child.

### [FREE SCHOOL MEALS \(FSM\) ELIGIBILITY & MEAL PLANNING FORM](#)

If you require any support completing the form, please contact the school office who will be happy to assist.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Newnham  
Headteacher

