Horning Primary School

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AIM Federation: Small schools, big opportunities

11th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium (PP) eligibility that will come into effect from September 2026. These changes will impact many families and are designed to widen access to free school meals.

Families will now need to reapply on a yearly basis.

From 1st September 2026, any family in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals. This means that you may now be eligible for Free School Meals where you previously have not been. This entitlement is reviewed annually.

In addition to this, Free School Meal entitlement will now be split into two categories:

1. **Targeted support** – Students within a family with a household income of less than £7,400. These students will receive Free School Meals and also be eligible for support with wider financial support from the school (for example with the cost of school trips).

2. **Expanded support** – Students within a family in receipt of Universal Credit but with a household income greater than £7,400. These students will receive free school meals but no other additional financial support.

This means that some students who receive Free School Meals will not be eligible for the additional financial support that was previously available.

In order for us as a school to prepare for next year, we need to understand what support (if any) our students are eligible for, under this new funding model. As such we request that you get in contact with us to notify of your eligibility if you are in receipt of universal credit (and therefore will qualify for free school meals).

As part of this process, we would also need the following information for the family member in receipt of universal credit:

- Date of birth
- Surname
- National insurance number

To share this information, please complete the Google Form at the link below by the **19th June 2026**. All information will be handled securely and in line with data protection requirements. Providing this information will not affect any other benefits you receive and will only be used to plan school provision and check eligibility for free school meals.

Fill out form Information from Parents and Carers for free school meals

Later the government will have a subsequent process for checking for eligibility and applying for support. We will send further communication regarding this when we receive more information.

If you have any concerns, please contact your school office who will be able to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

Head of School
Kathryn Andrews

FREE SCHOOL MEALS 2026/27

Important changes

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

All children from households receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM).

TWO TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

TARGETED FSM

Universal Credit + household earnings £7,400 or less

- Free school meal every school day
- Access to the HAF Programme during school holidays
- School receives Pupil Premium funding for additional educational support

EXPANDED FSM

Universal Credit households above the £7,400 earnings threshold

- Free school meal every school day
- No HAF eligibility
- No Pupil Premium funding

TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION IS ENDING

From 31 July 2026, previous FSM protection arrangements will end.

- Eligibility will be checked annually
- Some families may become eligible for the first time
- Some families currently receiving FSM may no longer qualify