

Monday 22nd June 2026

Free School Meals

Many of us will be affected by the current cost of living crisis. We want to ensure families are aware of any support that may be available at this time. Children approved for free school meals not only receive a **healthy meal on every school day**, but they **may** also get:

- **access to free holiday clubs (Holiday Activities & Food Programme)**
- **extra money for their school towards more teachers and activities (pupil premium)**
- **half price school trips**
- **a voucher for a free sweater/cardigan and a PE t-shirt every year**

You **MUST check now** to see if your children will be eligible for free school meals from the September 2026 school term. You can do this from 1 June 2026. ***Even if you have previously been eligible for free school meals, the entitlement will stop on 31/08/2026 UNLESS you have re-applied.***

From September 2026 the government is expanding Free School Meals criteria so that all households who receive **any level of Universal Credit** can apply. If you haven't yet applied for free school meals but think you might be eligible, please complete the confidential online checker:

[Apply for free school meals - Dorset Council](#)

If you have any questions, please see the web page above or email freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

You may also wish to check if you are eligible for Universal Credit. Earnings are not the only factor, so it is worth checking (UC, and how to claim) so that you are ready when FSM applications open on 1 June 2026.

If you think you might be eligible for Universal Credit, but need help claiming, you can contact Citizens Advice for help by calling 0800 144 8 444.

Best wishes,

Emma Roberts

Headteacher