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11th June 2026

Free School Meals from September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that will come into effect from September 2026.

Expansion of Free School Meals Eligibility

From September 2026, free school meal eligibility is expanding. All children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals.

We strongly encourage all families in receipt of Universal Credit to apply – even if your income has increased, your child may now qualify.

Applying is quick and easy via the https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford (OFSM).

End of Transitional Protection

Temporary protections, which allowed children to continue receiving free school meals without rechecking eligibility, will end at the close of the 2025–2026 academic year.

From September 2026, all families will need to meet the current eligibility criteria to continue receiving free school meals.

Families who are currently receiving free school meals do not need to take any action at this stage. Eligibility will be automatically rechecked, and schools will confirm eligibility from September 2026.

New FSM Categories from September 2026

Going forward, there will be two categories of benefit-based free school meals:

- **Targeted Free School Meals** - Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit and has an annual earned income of £7,400 or less (after tax, excluding benefits). Pupils eligible for Targeted FSM will also be eligible for Pupil Premium

- **Expanded Free School Meals** - Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400. Pupils eligible for Expanded FSM will **not** be eligible for Pupil Premium (meals only)

If you receive Universal Credit, we encourage you to submit an application as soon as possible via the link https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford

Kinds regards

Mrs Moroney and the School Office Team
Moss Park Primary School