

Whats changing in September 2026?



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION



Thursday 2 July 2026

Welcome to our special edition of the Family Information Service newsletter. This month, we're focusing on free school meals.

Access to a free school meal not only helps children develop healthy eating habits but can also support their learning and behaviour in school, while saving families both time and money.

From September 2026 there will be some changes to the eligibility criteria. In this edition, you'll find everything you need to know about what's changing, the wider benefits of applying (it's more than just a free meal!) and how to make an application.

We're refreshing our **Free School Meals resources** and will be launching them over the next few weeks. Keep an eye on our updates to make sure you don't miss them!

From September 2026, Free School Meal eligibility is changing across England. All children in households receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to free school meals, with more families becoming eligible for support.

Parents and carers are encouraged to check their eligibility and apply through their local authority if they qualify. Registering for Free School Meals can provide children with a nutritious meal each school day and may also help schools receive additional funding to support pupils.

For further information and application details, please visit your local authority website:

- Coventry City Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Leicestershire County Council