

Water Primary School

Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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7th September 2026



Dear Families

Changes to eligibility for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium)

Please note that the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals has changed from this month, meaning there is a possibility that you may be entitled without realising it.

Previously eligibility was available for families in receipt of Universal Credit with earnings threshold of £7,400. **This threshold has now been removed which means ALL families in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled.**

We have had a few families return this year to find they are now entitled so it is definitely worth checking!

There is a simple, quick and easy way to check, which will take you no longer than 5 minutes. **All you need to have to hand is your date of birth and National Insurance Number.**

Please complete the online form using the link below. Once submitted, it will be sent directly to Lancashire County Council, who will check your eligibility on your behalf. If you qualify, they will write to you and also notify the school.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

It is well worth taking just five minutes to complete this form, as Pupil Premium support is not limited to Free School Meals. Eligibility may also provide access to assistance with school trips, school uniform costs and other support. In addition, the school receives extra funding from the Government for every child who qualifies for Pupil Premium.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or call into the school office.

Yours faithfully
Mrs A Graham
Office Manager



Free School Meals – Who is Entitled?

Important Information for Families.

Firstly, if your child is already receiving Free School Meals and is in Years 3–11, there is nothing you need to do. The Local Authority already holds your information and will automatically check your child's eligibility ahead of their return to school in September 2026.

If your child has not been receiving a free school meal and you believe your they may be eligible please read the information below.

From September 2026, the Government is extending eligibility for Free School Meals. This means that more families may now qualify for support, even if they have not previously been eligible.

What this means for you

- If your household income is lower, your child may now be entitled to free school meals at school
- Schools receive additional funding (known as Pupil Premium) for every eligible child, which is used to support learning, resources and enrichment opportunities
- Even if your child prefers a packed lunch, applying can still bring valuable benefits to both your child and the school

What you need to do

- If you think you may now be eligible, we strongly encourage you to submit an application before the start of the academic year.
- Applications are quick, confidential and securely processed
- If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, you **do not need to reapply**

Why it's important to apply

- Ensures your child receives all the support they are entitled to
- Helps the school access additional funding to support pupils
- May provide access to further support, such as help with trips or activities

If you would like further information or support with your application, please contact the school office.

We encourage all families to take a few minutes to check their eligibility — this support can make a real difference.

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Aware School **ACE** Education



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