

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL



'Helping everyone achieve their best'



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'It Really Does Matter'

22nd June 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Important Update: Changes to Free School Meals

We are writing to share some news regarding Free School Meals (FSM). As of September 2026, the government has announced that FSM entitlement is expanding. Abbotswood Junior School is committed to ensuring that every child and family receives the support available to them. Therefore, we encourage all parents and carers to review the information below and check whether they may be eligible for Free School Meals.

What is changing?

From September 2026, the Government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals in England. **All children in households receiving Universal Credit** will become eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings. Previously, eligibility under Universal Credit was subject to a household income threshold of £7,400 after tax. This income cap has now been removed, making many more pupils eligible across the country.

Important Information for Year 2 Key Stage 1 Parents

All children in Early Years Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 already receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. Once in Key Stage 2, these free meals are no longer offered, and are only available for children under the Targeted Free School Meal eligibility.

Why register and apply?

In addition to receiving a free school meal each day, eligibility may help schools access additional funding through the Pupil Premium. This extra funding can support enhanced educational opportunities, pastoral support, enrichment activities and targeted interventions to help children achieve their full potential. **This may also entitle you to financial support for some school trips.**

When do you need to check and to apply?

To ensure that your child's free meals are active and ready for the start of the new term, please submit your application by **Friday 17th July**.

If your household circumstances have changed or if you were previously not eligible, we highly encourage you to apply.

You can check your eligibility and submit a claim through the GOV.UK [Free School Meals Portal](#). This should take no more than 10 minutes to complete but you will need the following information:

- Name of adult applying
- Home address
- Email address
- National Insurance number
- Child's name and date of birth
- School name (Abbotswood Junior School)

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions or require any assistance with the application process. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Glenn Moore
Headteacher