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## Nether Green Junior School

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Thursday 18 June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Changes to Free School Meals

We are writing to let you know about some upcoming changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that may affect your child from 1 September 2026.

On 11 May, the Department for Education announced changes to how FSM eligibility will work in the future, linked to Universal Credit. These changes will affect both families who currently receive FSM and those who may be eligible but are not yet claiming. Since April 2018, any child who became eligible for FSM has kept that entitlement, even if their family's circumstances later changed. This protection will come to an end at the end of the 2025–26 school year. Because of this, all FSM eligibility will need to be checked again between 1 June and 31 August 2026 by Sheffield City Council.

This applies to:

- pupils who currently receive FSM, and
- families who would like to apply for FSM for the first time

If your child is confirmed as eligible during this period, they will receive free school meals for the whole of the 2026–27 school year, even if your circumstances change. This will then become a yearly process, with eligibility checked each year. We encourage you to have a look at the criteria below to see if your family may be eligible:

Targeted FSM (with additional Pupil Premium funding for schools):

- You receive Universal Credit and your household income is £7,400 a year or less
- You receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- You receive Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Your family has no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

Expanded FSM (free school meals only):

- You receive Universal Credit and your household income is above £7,400

All current FSM arrangements will remain in place until the end of the 2025–26 school year. If you are not already receiving FSM but think you might be eligible you can apply online for free school meals at [Free school meals | Sheffield City Council](#). Please DO NOT apply if you are already receiving income-based free school meals in a Sheffield school, we will be in touch if anything has changed. Our priority is to make sure that every child who is entitled to free school meals continues to receive them, so please look out for further updates.

Kind regards,

Mr W. Allen  
Headteacher.

