



St. John's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs M Carvell BEd ALCM



Friday 11th September 2026

Dear parent/carers

The Department for Education has made some changes to the criteria that determines if children are eligible to receive free school meals (FSM).

From the start of the 2026/2027 academic year, they have expanded eligibility to include all pupils from households in receipt of Universal Credit.

This is separate to the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) that allows all children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 to have a school meal for free. This remains unchanged.

School is informed by the local authority if children are eligible for FSM or not. The local authority re-check this regularly, for all parents who have made an application at some time since their child started school. You may have done this when your child started at St John's through the derbyshire.gov website, by calling them or by completing and returning a form through school. Parents do not need to apply again but if you are unsure if you have done this, you can contact school to confirm or make an application on the local authority website <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If your child has become eligible this week, they will bring a letter home on Monday 14th September informing you of this. We have already changed our systems and any meals taken this week have been changed to free. Parents who have pre-paid balances on ParentPay have been refunded today.

We will let parents know if their child becomes eligible in the future and also if their child's eligibility ends.

Kind regards

Mrs M. Carvell

Headteacher

