

All Saints' C of E (VC) Primary School

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14th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: IMPORTANT Free School Meals from September 2026

We are writing to let you know about an important change to Free School Meals (FSM). **Everyone must complete a new application to continue receiving Free School Meals from September 2026.**

This letter explains where to apply and what action you must take now to ensure your child continues to receive Free School Meals and that the school receives the funding it is entitled to.

Why should I register?

- It's quick and easy and free to do
- Even if you have previously registered for Free School Meals **YOU MUST COMPLETE A NEW APPLICATION OR YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FUNDING.**
- Completing the application will ensure that your child receives Free School Meals if eligible.
- Your application also helps the school to receive the funding it is entitled to.

Please complete your application as soon as possible to avoid any interruption to your child's Free School Meals.

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals through a government protection scheme, even if their family no longer met the eligibility criteria. This protection was introduced during the rollout of Universal Credit. The protection scheme ended in July 2026.

What does this mean for your family?

Many families who receive Universal Credit will still be eligible for free school meals. To make sure your child receives any support they are entitled to you will need to follow the link below to Southend on Sea City Council for FSM, who are the link in Essex for Government.uk. The links to help you do this are listed below:

Free school meals: information for parents and carers:

LINK: [Free school meals: information for parents and carers – Southend-on-Sea City Council](#)

Applying for free school meals - Guidance for parents and guardians:

[Who can get free school meals?](#)

LINK: [Application Form](#) - Enter "All Saints Maldon Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School" to find the school.

Before you complete your application you will need:

- a National Insurance number
- to use or create a GOV.UK One Login
- details of the children you're applying for, including the name of their school

Note: Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch or you think you may not qualify, it is still worth registering! If your child is confirmed as eligible, not only will the funding be backdated to the start of the new term, but they will continue to receive free school meals until July 2027.

Kind regards

PJBrown

Mr P Brown - Headteacher



"Every Child Shines"

