COX GREEN SCHOOL
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Monday, 22 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Important Changes to Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility

From September 2026, the government will be changing the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) so that more families will qualify:

- **All current Free School Meal eligibility will end on 31st August 2026 and all families must re-apply.**
- FSM eligibility criteria will be expanded so that all households receiving Universal Credit will now be eligible, regardless of household income.
- The current eligibility protection that has been in place during the Universal Credit rollout will end.

Who will be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026?
There will be two types of FSM eligibility from September 2026:

1. 'Targeted' Eligibility
Families on lower incomes including those who met the current criteria (those in receipt of certain benefits and, if receiving Universal Credit, a household income of £7,400 or less). These families will be eligible for FSM **and** may also be eligible for additional support if required, e.g., help with school trips etc.

2. 'Expanded' Eligibility
Families who qualify under the new wider criteria, including those receiving Universal Credit, regardless of income. These families will be eligible for FSM only, not additional support.

If you are found eligible for FSM, you will be informed of your eligibility type.

What do I need to do now?
All families currently receiving FSM will continue to do so until the end of the summer term but must re-apply now to renew their eligibility from September 2026.

Families who did not previously qualify for FSM may be eligible from September 2026. We therefore encourage you to check whether you are now eligible by applying as soon as possible. You will be informed immediately if you are found eligible.

Applying online is quick and simple. Please apply at: Online FSM Application
You will need to complete a separate application for each child.

Only applications received **from 1 June 2026 onwards** will be assessed under the new expanded criteria. Applications received prior to 1 June 2026 will not qualify, so you may need to re-apply even if you applied recently.

What happens if I am eligible?
From September 2026, your child will receive the daily FSM allowance of £3.05 directly into their iPay Impact School Meal fund. The allowance can be spent on a choice of either the hot meal deal, the blue dot deal or on individual

items up to the value of £3.05. Any unspent allowance is removed at the end of each day and cannot be carried forward.

If you have any questions or need any help with your application, please email finance@coxgreen.com or call 01628 629415.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Dunne
Finance Director