



LARKFIELDS INFANT SCHOOL

Coronation Road

Nuthall

Nottingham, NG16 1EP

Head Teacher: Mrs N. Irwin

e-mail: head@larkfieldsinfant.org

office@larkfieldsinfant.org

Tel: 0115 9137730

15th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility from September 2026

Important Information for Families Receiving Universal Credit

From **September 2026**, all children in England whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to a **Free School Meal**, regardless of household income.

This important change, announced by the Government, means that many more children will become eligible for free school meals from the start of the **2026-2027 academic year**.

What is Changing?

Currently, families must earn less than **£7,400 per year** (after tax and not including benefits) to qualify for benefits-related Free School Meals. From **September 2026**, this income threshold will be removed for families receiving Universal Credit, meaning many more children will become eligible.

When will this start?

The new eligibility rules will take effect from the beginning of the **2026-2027 academic year in September 2026**.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive a free school meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, if you receive Universal Credit, it is very important that you apply for benefits-related free school meals because:

- The school may receive additional funding through Pupil premium to support your child's education
- It helps ensure your child continues to receive free school meals when they move into Year 3, provided they remain eligible.

Pupil premium funding provides schools with additional financial support to help eligible pupils achieve their full potential. It can be used to provide additional teaching and learning support, targeted interventions, educational resources, enrichment opportunities and wellbeing support.

How do I apply?

At Larkfields Infant School we want to ensure that every family receives the support they are entitled to.

If you receive Universal Credit, we encourage you to apply.

You can choose whichever option is most convenient for you.

Option 1 - Apply Yourself

You can check your eligibility and apply directly through Nottinghamshire County Council using the following link:

[Free school meals and milk | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Option 2- Let us apply on your behalf

If you would prefer, simply complete the short Microsoft form to give the school permission to check your eligibility and submit a Free School Meal application on your behalf.

[Free School Meals Application & Consent Form - Fill in form](#)

We hope this option makes the application process as quick and straightforward as possible for families.

Need help?

If you have any questions or would like support completing an application, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Alternatively, you can contact Nottinghamshire County Council on 0115 804 1237.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that every child and family receives the support they are entitled to.

Yours Sincerely,

Nichola Irwin
Head Teacher