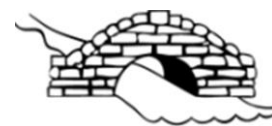


Mansbridge Primary School

Octavia Road
Swaythling
SOUTHAMPTON
SO18 2LX



Tel: 02380 556691
Email: info@mansbridgepri.net

20th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to free school meals from September 2026

We know that school meals are important for children and families. From the start of September 2026, the rules for free school meals in England will change. This letter explains what is changing, what it may mean for your child, and what you need to do next.

Key changes from September

- The old Universal Credit earnings limit will no longer apply.
- Some children who have free school meals now may need to meet the new criteria to continue getting them.
- A rule that allows some children to remain receiving free school meals will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 school year.
- When children move into Year 3, families will need to meet the free school meal criteria for their child to continue to receive them.
- The changes apply for all years from Year 3 to Year 11.

What this means for your child

- If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will still get free school meals.
- If your child is moving into Year 3, they may only get free school meals if your family meets the new rules.
- If you receive Universal Credit, regardless of how much your household earnings are, your child will be able to receive free school meals - **but you must apply or reapply.**

When this will happen and what you need to do next

The changes start in September 2026.

You will need to apply or reapply for your child to receive free school meals.

Apply for free school meals using the Southampton City Council application form using this link: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/southampton>

- o You can apply now for the September term
- o You may need your National Insurance number when you apply

We are here to help

We understand that changes like this can feel worrying. We will make sure you have clear information before anything changes. Please contact the school office if you need help.

PTO

Alternatively, you can collect a Free School Meals check form from the school office, and we will be happy to complete the application on your behalf.

If you have any questions or would like support with an application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office—we are always happy to help.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Brosnan
Headteacher