



For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime

23rd September 2026

Dear Parent/Carers of Children in Years R, 1 and 2

Universal Infant Free School Meals - Thursday 1st October 2026

We continue to have a fantastic uptake on hot school meals and the children are clearly enjoying the menu.

As you know school meals for children in Years R, 1 & 2 are centrally funded by the government. All maintained schools have a census taken three times a year – in October, January and May. On these days all sorts of information is collated which leads directly to how much money the school receives, this includes the school receiving the money to pay for your child's free meals. The first census of the academic year will take place on Thursday, 1st October. The school is required to record the uptake of the Universal Infant Free School Meals on the day and I am asking that **all** children register to have a hot school meal on Thursday, 1st October. **We will only receive money to pay for your child's hot dinners, at any point during the year, if they eat a school meal on the census day.** By eating on the census day you secure the funding for your child for the year. If your child does not eat a school lunch on the census day but they do at other times during the year the money to pay for this will have to come directly from the school budget. As you will appreciate this is money which will have been committed to other expenditure. To secure the full funding the children will need to eat on the January census day too – I will write to you again nearer the time to let you know when this is.

If you are concerned that your child may not eat well enough on census day you can of course send in a packed lunch on that day too. For your information the menu on Thursday, 1st October will be baked sausages/quorn sausage, crushed new potatoes, peas and salad or jacket potato with cheese and beans. The main dish will be followed by a serving of summer fruits pinwheel or fresh fruit.

I thank you in advance for your support with this important matter. As always, if you seek clarification or wish to comment please don't hesitate to make contact with me by email or telephone.

Yours sincerely

Neil Brinicombe
Interim Headteacher