

St. John's Church of England VA Primary School

Priory, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 9EJ

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Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Changes

We have received notice from Somerset Council that from 1 September 2026 there will be changes to free school meal eligibility as per central government's policy change. All children that are currently eligible for free school meals will be rechecked to see if they are still eligible. There will be two categories:

Targeted: Children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of **£7,400 or less**. These pupils will attract pupil premium and other disadvantaged funding. Other entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will also be based on this category.

Expanded: Children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings **above £7,400**. These pupils will be entitled to free school meals only and will not attract pupil premium and other entitlements. This will mean that there will no longer be additional support or help with.

Somerset Council will recheck every child that is currently in receipt of Free School meals and notify school by the end of the summer term. They will also be advising parents directly if their child is no longer entitled.

Parents and families who are not entitled under the current criteria should not apply just yet. If they believe they may be entitled under the new expanded criteria, we ask that parents apply from **August 2026 onwards**.

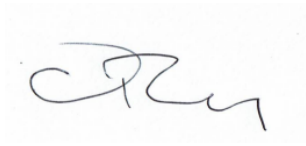
Any parent who wishes to claim FSM under the new Expanded criteria (based on receipt of Universal Credit) will need to make application to Somerset Council directly. The local authority has no access to confidential data held by HMRC and therefore would not know which parents would be eligible without an application. This can be done by copying and pasting the link below into your browser;

www.service.somerset.gov.uk/free-school-meals

Please be aware this policy change does not affect **Universal Free School meals** which all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive regardless of parents/carers earnings or benefit status.

Should you have any questions please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Olly Priestley', enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Olly Priestley

Headteacher