



ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Free School Meals 1st September 2026

Free School Meals eligibility is changing from 1st September 2026. The government have rolled out the entitlement for a free meal to all children in households in receipt of Universal Credit. This means that some families may now become eligible and some families that had a historic entitlement, called Ever 6, may no longer be eligible if their circumstances have changed.

All applications made to Kent County Council prior to 1st June 2026 will go through a rechecking process over the next few weeks. **If your child already receives the benefits related free school meal you do not need to do anything as your eligibility will be checked automatically.**

If you believe that you may now be eligible, as a household on Universal Credit, regardless of the household income, please complete an application at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals> where there is also more guidance.

Whilst all infant aged children in Years R – 2 can have a meal that is not charged to parents, it is really important that you apply for benefits related free meals if you are on universal credit as the way the school receives funding from the Government for these meals is different.

Summary – what do you need to do?

- **UIFSM** - If you are not in receipt of Universal Credit there is **no action to take** and your child will receive a universal infant meal until the end of Year 2.
- **Targeted FSM** - If you are in receipt of Universal Credit with an income of less than £7,400 and have previously been eligible for Free School Meals (you would have received supermarket vouchers during holiday periods) there is **no action to take** as your application will be rechecked automatically.
Please check at the school office if you are unsure.
- **Extended FSM** - If you are in receipt of Universal Credit with an income of more than £7,400 and have not applied for Free School Meals before, **please apply now** to Kent County Council <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent>

Your eligibility will be rechecked once every year and if your circumstances have changed, eg, you are no longer receiving Universal Credit, you will be moved to the UIFSM whilst at St Alphege CE Infant School. You will need to pay for meals when your child is in Year 3 at a junior school.

If you have any questions, or your application is returned as not eligible but you are receiving Universal Credits please email Mrs Cullen in the first instance on finance@st-alphege.kent.sch.uk



Kent & Medway
Music Hub
Lead School



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING



**National Nurturing
School Award
2024**



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

St Alphege Values

Koinonia

Forgiveness

Trust

Kindness

Love

Joy