0121 779 8080
Woodlands Way, B37 6RN
www.windy-arbor.solihull.sch.uk
Head Teacher – Mrs J Curry

Windy Arbor Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers

Important Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) Eligibility from September 2026

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility taking effect from September 2026 that you may have heard about in the news.

Under new national rules, all families receiving Universal Credit will qualify for Free School Meals which means many more children will become eligible.

Why should you apply, even if your child already gets a free school meal?

If your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 (and automatically receives Universal Infant Free School Meals), you might wonder why you still need to complete this application.

Here is why your application is so important:

● To unlock extra funding for our school: When an application is approved under Targeted Eligibility, the Department for Education gives our school extra funding (including Pupil Premium).

We use this money to support your child's learning, buy extra resources, run after-school activities, and provide targeted support.

Additional benefits for your family:

Eligible children may also receive extra support outside of lunchtime meals, such as help with the cost of school trips or visits, access to free holiday clubs and access to free after school and enrichment clubs.

● Long-term security: Applying now ensures your child stays registered as eligible as they move up into higher year groups, so you won't miss out on support later on.

Your Privacy Matters

We understand that sharing financial details can feel sensitive. Please be assured that our school does not see your personal or financial information. The application process is completely confidential:

● Your information is checked securely against government databases.

● The school only receives a simple status update (confirming whether your child is eligible). No details about your household income, tax, or benefits are ever shared with us.

How the New Categories Work

From 1 September 2026, there are two categories of FSM eligibility:

1. Targeted Eligibility

○ Who qualifies: Households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less.

○ Outcome: Qualifies for Free School Meals and brings vital extra funding to our school.

2. Expanded Eligibility

○ Who qualifies: Households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400.

○ Outcome: Qualifies for Free School Meals.

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What you need to do

All parents and carers to complete a short online form as soon as possible. Please complete one application form per child.

Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Please be aware that if your child moved to Windy Arbor from another school, reapplication is required in order to avoid loss of eligibility.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this form. By applying, you directly help our school gain the funding needed to provide the best possible education and environment for your child.

Many thanks

Windy Arbor