CARR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Executive Principal: Mr James McGann

Head of School: Mrs Laura Winston

Carr Junior School
Ostman Road, Acomb
York YO26 5QA

T: 01904 798996
E: admin@carrjunior.elt.org.uk
www.carrjunior.co.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Free school meals are being expanded from September:

How do you know if your family is eligible and how to apply?

From September 2026 the Department for Education is extending entitlement to free school meals to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. Although eligibility will be granted to all Universal Credit recipients, it is important to note that families do still need **to apply** to receive the meals.

Please be aware that any previous protections which applied to children already in receipt of free school meals will no longer apply. Eligibility will be based on whether you are in receipt of any of the benefits, as shown below:

- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of Pension Credit

From September 2026 there will be 2 categories of eligibility for free school meals:

Targeted FSM: this covers children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools. Other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will be based on targeted free school meals.

Expanded FSM: this covers children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400. Children will be entitled to free school meals only.

For those wanting to apply, applications can be made through the council website www.northyorks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals with effect from June**.**

Kind regards,

Laura Winston
Head of School