March 2025

Dear parents and carers,

**Free School Meals applications**

The County Council have contacted us with an update about Free School Meal allocations. Here is the information they provided:

*“From 2018 criteria used to determine eligibility for free school meals was updated to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit and phasing out of other income-based benefits.  To ensure families were not disadvantaged during this rollout protection arrangements were put in place.  This was known as transitional protection.  Any child that was eligible from 31 March 2018 continued to remain eligible during this rollout period.”*

It is expected that this transitional protection will end on 31 March 2025.  This means that any child registered for Free School Meals **BEFORE** 31st March 2025 will remain on the FSM list for their whole time at Primary school, regardless of whether financial circumstances change during this time. Any child registered for Free School Meals **AFTER** 31st March 2025 will only remain on the FSM list while the family meets the criteria (if and when this changes, the child will no longer be eligible).

**So in simple terms – If you think your child may qualify for Free School Meals, it is important to apply before the 31st March.**

If you feel you may qualify for Free School Meals, the best way to apply is online as this will provide an immediate result and will ensure as many parents as possible can apply before the deadline of 31 March 2025. If you cannot apply online, you can call the customer service centre on 0300 500 80 80.

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk)

Kind Regards,

RMPA