

Mendham Primary School & Nursery
Mendham
IP20 0NJ
Tel: 01379 852520



St. Edmund's Primary School
Hoxne
IP21 5AD
Tel: 01379 668283

Academy Head – Henry Huxtable
Email: head.wvp@consortiumtrust.org.uk

3rd June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

IMPORTANT Please read **Universal credit changes to Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement**

We have been made aware of forthcoming changes in how the government is categorising the expansion and ruling of who is entitled to Free School Meals. From September 2026 those who are currently on Free School Meals (FSM) will be checked for entitlement and will either remain on the list or be removed, as a school we will be required to check the entitlement annually before the start of each academic year.

Who is entitled and what are they now called:

- Targeted FSM – this is the current entitlement based on households who have annual earnings of £7,400 or less.
- NEW category Expanded FSM: those who do not meet the earnings threshold but are in receipt of universal credit.

If your child is in receipt of Targeted FSM and house earnings change, meaning that the criteria is no longer met the child will be removed.

How this affects school:

Parents will need to ensure that they have applied to Suffolk County Council Free School Meals team which can be done here [Apply for free school meals - Suffolk County Council](#) to check their entitlement, SCC will inform the school if entitled and a date to which this applies. Applications for the new system can be made from 1st June 2026 and will be effective from either the date SCC gives school or 1st September 2026. *Please also do this at any point during the year if your circumstances change.*

Targeted FSM will be entitled to a free school lunch daily and will attract Pupil Premium (PP) funding for the school which we currently use to support breakfast club.



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<http://www.mendhamprimaryschool.org.uk/>

<http://www.stedmundsprimary.org.uk/>

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Expanded FSM will ONLY be entitled to a free school lunch, and school will not receive PP funds to support clubs etc.

Please note that the rule set out in April 2018 is now ending due to the universal credit roll out completing. This means the previous cap of having FSM status until the end of the Primary phase ends this academic year.

If you currently receive FSM and will not qualify for either Targeted or Expanded FSM in September 2026 then please be aware that the status will be removed and meals will be chargeable, the cost of a school meal is £2.80 (£14.00 per week) which is payable via Arbor/meals in ADVANCE.

Nursery pupils: if you are entitled to FSM your child can receive a meal FOC if they attend a full day only, if they are collected after lunch but do not complete a full day then this would be chargeable.

Universal Free School Meals (UFSM): Will continue to offer a free lunch to pupils in year groups Reception, 1 and 2. Please ensure that you also apply to SCC as if you are entitled to Targeted FSM this will give school additional funds and possibly open access to free breakfast club (tbc). If schools are not notified that you are entitled to Targeted FSM then you will not be able to access the funding to support clubs and educational visits.

Years 3-6: If your child is not entitled to either FSM status or has just moved from Year 2 so is no longer in the UFSM bracket then meals will be chargeable at £2.80 (£14.00 per week) which is payable via Arbor/meals in ADVANCE.

Any questions please speak to Mrs Rogers (office), or if you need help applying to SCC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Huxtable'.

Henry Huxtable
Academy Head



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