



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating **Manor Court Early Years Centre**

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode **Assistant Head Teacher** Mrs G Terry

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset TA20 2ES

Telephone 01460 62350 • email office@manorcourt.ppat365.org

manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk • x @ManorCourtChard

Thursday 16th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Free School Meal (FSM) Applications for September 2026

As you are aware from our previous correspondence important changes are coming to who is entitled to Free School Meal (FSM) in the new academic year.

From 1 September 2026, there will be 2 categories of eligibility for free school meals:

- Targeted: this covers children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.
- Expanded: this covers children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400.

If you believe you may be entitled under the new expanded criteria. Somerset Council ask that parents submit an application form to have their eligibility checked. Please apply at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> **after 1st August 2026.**

Please ensure that any application is submitted no later than Friday 28th August 2026 to allow the council sufficient time to process claims before the start of the autumn term.

In the meantime, we ask all parents and carers to continue booking and paying for school lunches through ParentPay as normal for September onwards. Once we receive confirmation from Somerset Council regarding eligible pupils, any payments made for meals that should have been covered under Free School Meal entitlement will be credited/refunded to your ParentPay account.

We appreciate that this is a change to the previous guidance and thank you for your cooperation. Applying promptly will help ensure that entitlements are confirmed as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Kind regards,

Mr Talmage
Headteacher

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