

**Finlay Community School**  
**CHF Community Federation**  
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Lane  
Acting Headteacher: Mrs Hannah Williams

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Free School Meal support during the October Half term**

For the October Half term, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to their Free School Meals Scheme. These are part of the council's 'No child goes Hungry' commitment.

Parents who have signed up will receive a £15 voucher for each child eligible for FSM to cover the half term week.

Parents who have previously signed up do not need to re-register. If you have not previously registered, please do so as soon as possible and **before the 24<sup>th</sup> September**. Vouchers will be sent between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

For more information and to sign up if you haven't already, please visit the [holiday School meal vouchers page](#) on the council's website.

**Applying for Free School Meal support**

**UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS (UIFSM)**

Since September 2014, all children in EYFS and Years 1 and 2 have been offered a free school lunch, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. Children in Years 3 to 6 still have to pay for lunch, unless they are eligible for free school meals because their families receive certain benefits.

UIFSM Funding is provided to the school based on pupil uptake on Census day, and is used by the school to provide free school meals to children in those year groups.

UIFSM is not the same as Free School Meals (FSM)

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)**

Regardless of which year your child is in, if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits, he or she may be eligible for free school meals, and other school based support:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you think you may be entitled please [APPLY HERE](#), even if you are covered by UIFSM. More information can be found on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

**Why should you apply for FSM, even if your EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2 child is already receiving a free meal under UISFM?**

**If you haven't applied** you will not be able to receive County Council free school meal vouchers over the holidays, or in the event of school closures.

**If you haven't applied** the school doesn't receive the extra Pupil Premium funding.

**Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them.**

If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches, please still register because the school will receive the Pupil Premium funding which can support your child in other ways.

Kind regards,

Hannah Williams  
**Acting Headteacher**

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