

Tuesday 22 September 2026

Dear Parents

We would like to share an important update regarding Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility checks and how they impact both family benefits and our school funding.

The Universal London Offer vs. Targeted Free School Meals As you may know, all primary school children in London currently receive a free school lunch under the Mayor of London's universal scheme. However, registering for **Targeted Free School Meals** (based on household income or benefits) provides essential support beyond daily meals:

- **For your family:** Eligible children qualify for the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme**, which provides free activities and meals during school holidays.
- **For our school:** The Local Authority (LA) provides our school with vital extra funding (Pupil Premium) for every registered child. This directly supports learning resources, staff, and extracurricular activities.

New Local Authority Check System The Local Authority has changed how they regularly audit and verify targeted FSM status. During recent checks, we noticed a common issue:

- In two-parent households, a form was sometimes submitted using details for only one parent. If that parent was not eligible, the system marked the family as ineligible—even though the *other* parent might have qualified. In addition, families claimed under different parents which meant that one sibling was eligible and the other was not.
- Some families did not complete the form on admission because they felt they were not eligible at the time, or their circumstances have since changed.

What We Need From You To ensure no family misses out on support and our school receives its full funding, the school office will be following up with families where information is missing.

- **If your child brought a form home today:** We currently have no record on file for your family. Please complete and return this form as soon as Friday 25 September.
- **If you think you might now be eligible, or only listed one parent previously:** Please complete an updated form with details for **both** parents/carers.

How to Get a Form

- Collect a paper copy from the school office.
- Email the office at office@grangeparkprimary.org, and we will happily send a printed copy home with your child.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to help us ensure our records are up to date and that our school receives the maximum funding available to support your children.

Warm regards,

School Office