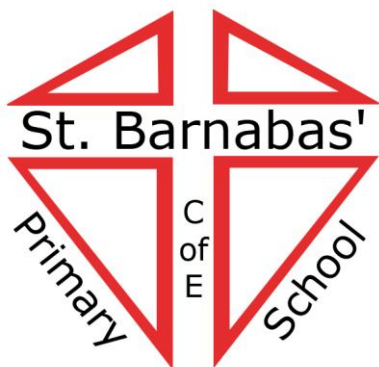




Heaton St. Barnabas' C.E. Primary School

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Tel: 01274 545019 Fax: 01274 553910

Headteacher: Mrs Diane Smith NPQH.

Proud to be a member of The Bradford Shine Partnership **Shine** 



10 July 2026

Important changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

From September 2026, all children in households receiving **Universal Credit** will become entitled to free school meals. This means that *more* children at the school will be able to have a free school meal **if parents apply for, and receive, Universal Credit**. Find out how to make a claim at <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-to-claim>

From September 2026, there will be two groups that qualify for free school meals:

- **Targeted FSM** (income £7,400 or less) = free school meals + extra help with uniform and trips from school through Pupil Premium funding
- **Expanded FSM** (over £7,400 but qualifying for Universal Credit) = free school meals only

What about Universal Infant Free School Meals?

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. *It is still worth applying for free school meals when your child enters Reception because you may get extra help from school through Pupil Premium funding. Please note that Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically stop at the end of Year 2. You will have to pay for school meals from Year 3 unless you apply, and qualify for, free school meals or Universal Credit.*

If my family gets free school meals now, will they still get them in September?

Bradford Council will check that you still qualify for free school meals and will contact you, and the school, if you no longer qualify. They may contact you over summer to check your details.

How do I apply for Free School Meals?

You can apply at <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/> This application portal will become available during the summer holidays. Please keep checking Bradford Council's website.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the School Office. While school cannot unfortunately make a claim for free school meals or Universal Credit on your behalf, we will do our best to help you with information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Smith
Headteacher

