



Wells-next-the-Sea Primary and Nursery School
Polka Road, Wells-next-the-Sea
Norfolk, NR23 1JG

www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wells-next-the-sea

01328 710320

office@wells-next-the-sea.norfolk.sch.uk

10th July 2026

Have a wonderful Summer!

We have had a busy year full of visits, a residential trip, sporting events, visitors, workshops, a fantastic sports day, and we even fitted in an OFSTED inspection! We couldn't do this without you, and as this is our last newsletter of the year, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support of our school this year. Have a fantastic summer, let's hope the sun keeps shining and the goals keep being scored!

Goodbye and Good Luck to some of our staff team

We are so grateful to have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Webster and Miss Gates during the last 2 years and we are so pleased that they are going on to great things in their new roles...BUT we are going to miss them dreadfully! All the very best to both teachers, we are so privileged to have been part and supported you both, through your first 2 years. Good luck and thank you to Mrs Platts and Miss Kendall who are also leaving us this year. We wish them both all the very best in their new adventures – thank you all for your immense dedication and hard work as part of our staff team here 😊.

We wish both Mrs Sheldrake and Mrs Walter all the very best as they start (have started) their maternity leaves and we look forward to sharing their exciting news with you soon.

School Year 2026-2027

We begin our new school year on Thursday 3rd September. Our Periwinkles families will be contacted directly by the Periwinkles team with their start dates and sessions. For our Seashells families, the Year Reception children will start according to the times sent to them from our Seashells team, and our Year 1 Seashells children will start on Thursday 3rd September along with the rest of our children.

The school office will not be open over the summer holiday but the email will be checked occasionally over the break so you can contact the school. Our website has full details of uniform, start and finish times and lots of useful information about our school.

A kind reminder to please not park in the staff carpark or the turning circle outside the school to keep our children and families safe.

Cluster Sports End of Year Update

It's been a successful year this year for our teams taking part in the cluster events at APHS. On Monday we had our final event, Volleyball and we were the overall winners. I am so excited to tell you that we are also the winners of the Cluster Events Trophy!!! What an amazing achievement!!! We are so proud of you all. It's been an absolute pleasure and honour to watch you all in the different events, from Rugby, football, netball, cricket, tennis, Tri golf and volleyball. Thank you to Mr Walden and the APHS Sports Leaders and to our supporters for coming along and cheering us on.

End of year reports

We are part of...



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We will be sending home electronic copies of the children's end of school reports today. If you would like an opportunity to discuss these with your child's teacher, please do book an appointment directly with them for the following week. As you might have seen from the BBC News, SATs results have been delayed this year due to technical difficulties with the marking and so we will be sending these out on the 16th/17th July when we have received them.

Safe to Play Week

This week is Safe to Play week and Active Norfolk are running a week-long campaign helping ensure that children can be safe, supported, and able to enjoy the activities they love. Information packs are available for parents and carer and can be accessed here: [Download and share](#)

Changes to FSM Eligibility - September 2026

From September 2026 there are significant changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. More information was posted on Dojo on Thursday 2nd July regarding the changes and how to apply if you feel you may be eligible. As a reminder for current Y2 parents/carers, the universal FSM entitlement ends at the end of KS1, so if you feel your child may be entitled to continue to receive free school meals please check the eligibility criteria and make an application. Please see the letters at the end of the newsletter.

Year 6 Leavers Party

We had a fantastic time last night celebrating our Year 6 children with a night to remember! There was delicious food, great music and some fabulous dancing from pupils and staff! As always it couldn't have gone ahead without the hard work and time of so many of our staff and PFA team, with a special mention to Mariusz from Mario's Kitchen Catering who provided the most amazing food, and Mrs Chesterman who co-ordinated between the school and PFA. Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make wonderful memories for our children.

PFA News

Supporting our children this summer

We have now purchased two new gazebos which will be used to keep the children out of the sun during break and lunchtimes, and for sporting and learning activities.

Values Awards

Seashells	Tallulah	Seashells	Harper
Sea Lavender		Sea Lavender	
Oysters	Bella	Oysters	Lynnie
Marsh Mallow	Maggie	Marsh Mallow	Pixie
Samphire	Millie	Samphire	Sophia
Barnacles		Barnacles	

Good Work Awards

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Term Dates for 2025-2026

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wells-next-the-sea/parents-and-carers/term-dates>

14th July-Seashells Celebration-Seashells families only (1.30pm)

17th July - Barnacles (Leavers) Class Assembly 2pm

17th July Last Day of Summer 2 Term

3rd September First Day of the new school year (see above)

Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Stroulger, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Beck, Mrs Baker-Milne & Mrs Chesterman

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Norfolk County Council

Free School Meals is changing: here's what you need to know

Free School Meals (FSM) is changing from September 2026. Please read each point, as this may affect your eligibility.

1. More families are becoming eligible

All households on Universal Credit are becoming eligible, with two tiers of entitlement:

- **Targeted:** if you earn under £7,400 a year, your children will be entitled to FSM and extra support for their school
- **Expanded:** if you earn above £7,400: your children will be entitled to FSM only

All households who receive other qualifying benefits will also receive Targeted FSM. A full list of qualifying benefits is available on our webpage: www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
You will only need to apply once per child.

2. Protected entitlements are ending

Children who were previously assessed as eligible for FSM had their eligibility protected. This meant they could not lose their FSM, even if the household was no longer eligible. These protections are ending in September, meaning some children may lose their existing eligibility. We will contact you to confirm your eligibility before the end of the summer holiday.

3. Annual eligibility rechecks

We will recheck the eligibility of all children on an annual basis. **Parents already in receipt of benefits related FSM do not need to reapply**, as your eligibility will be rechecked and confirmation of this will be sent to you before the end of the summer holiday.

4. No Recourse to Public Funds

Due to these changes, **all households that qualify as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and receive FSM must reapply** or you will lose your entitlement.

Questions

If you have any questions following receipt of your updated eligibility, please contact us at: fsm@norfolk.gov.uk

Applying online



www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

The easiest and quickest way to apply is online via Norfolk Education Online (NEO).
Scan the code or visit the link and click 'Apply for free school meals'.

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Letter to Parents/Carers: Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026

I am writing to inform you about significant changes to the Free School Meals (FSM) scheme that will take effect from September 2026. Please read this letter carefully, as it explains who will be affected, what action you may need to take, and how we will support you and your child during this transition.

Which year groups and school types are covered?

From September 2026, the FSM eligibility and provision will apply to the following school types and year groups:

- Nursery schools/classes (where a full-time education place is offered)
- Infant schools (Reception to Year 2)
- Primary schools (Reception to Year 6)
- Junior schools (Year 3 to Year 6)
- High schools (Year 7 onwards)
- Sixth Form (Year 12 and Year 13)

Who will be eligible under the new rules?

Eligibility criteria from September 2026 will be as follows:

- Children whose families receive qualifying benefits, such as:
 - Income Support
 - Income based Jobseeker's Allowance or 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 (without Working Tax Credit, and with annual gross income below £16,190)
 - Universal Credit (with net earned income below £7,400 per year)
- Children in households with no recourse to public funds (subject to maximum income thresholds)
- Any new categories or changes will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed

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How does this differ from current eligibility?

- The eligibility categories are being reviewed and may be updated. For example, the treatment of pupils in sixth form or certain immigration categories may change.
- Some pupils who currently receive FSM under transitional protections may need to reapply or reconfirm their eligibility.

What do parents and carers need to do?

- **If your child already receives FSM:**
You will be contacted if you need to reapply or confirm your eligibility. If you do not hear from us, no action is currently required.
- **If you believe your child may become eligible from September 2026:**
Please prepare to apply by gathering evidence of your qualifying benefits.
- **Application process:**
Please see attached information from Norfolk County Council on how you can check eligibility and apply.
- **Where to get help:**
 - Contact the school office via Dojo.
 - Local authority welfare/benefits team: fsm@norfolk.gov.uk

How will the school support pupils during this change?

- **Confidentiality:** Your child's eligibility will be handled in strict confidence.
- **Continued provision:** We will ensure that no eligible pupil misses out on meals during the transition period.
- **Meal provision:** Meals will continue to be provided as usual in the school dining areas or classrooms, as appropriate.
- **No automatic removal:** No pupil will be removed from FSM provision without prior written notice and the opportunity to appeal or seek support.

Support and appeals

If you are notified of a change in eligibility, you will have the right to appeal or request additional support. The school and local authority are here to help you through this process.

Where to find further information

If you have questions, please contact the school office by Dojo or phone on 01328 710320.

Next steps for parents and carers

- Look out for further updates from the school and local authority.
- Contact us if you think you may need to apply for FSM or if your circumstances change.
- Gather any documentation that may be needed for the application process.

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Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing!



With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued **after 19th August 2024**.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

- The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

- The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

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