



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](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wells-next-the-sea)

01328 710320

[office@wells-next-the-sea.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@wells-next-the-sea.norfolk.sch.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

### **What a wonderful Sports Day!**

What a fantastic turnout for Sports day this week, it was great to see so many of our families enjoying picnics and watching the races.

Thank you to everyone that donated prizes for our carnival bingos and raffles. Our sports day raffle and pool draw raised an incredible £353. A huge thank you to our family that donated the pool. I think this picture shows how happy the winner is with his prize!!



### **PE News**

We attended the Cluster mini tennis tournament on Monday with our Year 3's and 4's. This was a first for most of our Year 3's but they enjoyed the experience. We were runners up overall. You all played incredibly well and we're all so proud of you.

Our last cluster event will be on Monday 6th July which is the volleyball tournament, this will be

held at APHS.

### **End of year reports**

We are pleased to announce that we will be sending home electronic copies of the children's end of school reports on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. 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 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> July when we have received them.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> July regarding the changes and how to apply if you feel you may be eligible.

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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.

### **Good Luck Mrs Sheldrake**

Mrs Sheldrake's last day was Tuesday as she starts her maternity leave. We wish her all the very best and we can't wait to meet the newest member of the WPNS team! Thank you to Mrs Jones who will be covering in Sea Lavender Class for the next 2 weeks.

### **Norwich Castle Visit for Oysters and Marshmallows**

Samphire and Oyster Classes enjoyed a fantastic trip to Norwich Castle this week. After travelling together by coach, each class explored different areas of learning. Samphire Class took part in an exciting Ancient Egypt workshop, creating necklaces and investigating artefacts, while Oyster Class explored the Roman exhibition, Natural History galleries and the castle through self-led activities. A wonderful day of learning was had by all!

### **Transition**

The children have enjoyed some great transition sessions this week as they moved to their new classrooms and teachers. It was good to welcome into the main school the new children from Nursery who are joining our Seashells class in September. Welcome to Mrs Ward who is our new Oyster Class teacher and Mr Odell our new Barnacle Class teacher.

### **Year 6 Leavers Party**

We are looking forward to hosting our Year 6 pupils for our annual Leaver's Party on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, as always, many thanks to our wonderful PFA for funding and organising this much-loved event.

### **PFA News**

#### **Ice Cream Van Visit Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

We are very pleased that Cream of Norfolk Ice Cream van will be visiting us for our annual Ice Cream afternoon next Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, all children will be receiving a free ice cream fully funded by the PFA.

We are hosting our annual visit from Cream of Norfolk Ice Cream Van

#### **Tea Towel Update!**

We have now sent off our template for the whole school tea towel. The template looks amazing. We will update you once we have received them.

#### **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.

### **Term Dates for 2025-2026**

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

6<sup>th</sup> July Cluster Volleyball Event

8<sup>th</sup> July Rocksteady concert 2.15pm Rocksteady families only

8<sup>th</sup> July-Piano Recital in St Nicholas Church featuring some WPNS students-12noon

9<sup>th</sup> July-Year 6 Leavers Party

9<sup>th</sup> July -Nursery Graduation-Nursery families only

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14<sup>th</sup> July-Seashells Celebration-Seashells families only (1pm)

17<sup>th</sup> July - Barnacles (Leavers) Class Assembly 2pm

17<sup>th</sup> July Last Day of Summer 2 Term

3<sup>rd</sup> September First Day of the new school year.

*Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Stroulger, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Beck and 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](http://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](mailto:fsm@norfolk.gov.uk)

### Applying online



[www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://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](mailto: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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