



**Sunrising, East Looe, Cornwall PL13 1NQ**

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Headteacher: Mr P Boyes BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

26 January 2026

Our Ref: EPO/FSM

26 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Free School Meals**

You may be aware that schools' budgets are enhanced through a 'Pupil Premium' grant and this income to the school is determined by the number of students eligible for a Free School Meal (FSM).

Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school will receive additional funding to support their learning. A child is eligible for FSM if their parent/carers receives any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers' Allowance (Income-Based) and equal based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) and equal based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit (GPC)
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA) Supports

We appreciate that some parents do not claim Free School Meals as they feel that they can cope without and/or they feel that their child may be singled out by other students.

Free School Meals are however an important entitlement for those families who meet the criteria, and it is astonishing to think that 300,000 children who are entitled to FSM don't actually take advantage of them.

There are systems in school to ensure that students who are in receipt of FSM are not identified by their peers. This is because all payments are credited directly onto the student's canteen account and for those children in receipt of FSM, this is done automatically. When they purchase a meal, they hand their card to the cashier in just the same way as all other students.

Parents of students who are eligible for FSM can save approximately £350 year. You can apply online at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/> This is a quick process and asks you a series of questions to ascertain your eligibility.

If your child chooses not to eat school meals, but you know you are eligible for FSM, even for what you may anticipate being a short period of time, can we please encourage you to apply as by doing so, you will be supporting our school to receive additional funding.

In addition, we can help with other costs for FSM students to support academic progress by purchasing equipment, revision guides, music lessons, equipment for extra-curricular clubs, uniform, or help paying for trips during challenge week or as and when they arise.

If you have any questions or are unsure whether you would be entitled to FSM, please contact myself at [finance@looeca.net](mailto:finance@looeca.net) .

Yours faithfully

**Elaine Potterton**  
**Finance Manager**