

ST MARGARET'S

Mailing



Dear St M's families,

A lovely couple of weeks have flown by at school, and I have been incredibly impressed by the fantastic learning, positive attitudes and lovely behaviour I have seen across the school. Well done, children. You have all made a wonderful start to the year!

This week, I continued our assemblies focusing on our school value of respect. We spent time exploring the beautiful Golden Rule mosaic and discussing the important message it represents: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The children reflected thoughtfully on what this means in practice and how they can demonstrate kindness, respect and consideration for others in their daily lives at school.

Today, we enjoyed a wonderful Outdoor Enrichment Day, with children taking part in a range of exciting learning experiences beyond the classroom. My sincere thanks go to our dedicated staff team, who work tirelessly to provide these valuable opportunities and ensure our children benefit from a rich and well-rounded education.

We are looking forward to welcoming many of you next Friday at 9.00am for our Harvest Service.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Rachel and the St M's Team



**Friday 2nd October
Harvest Assembly**

You are all warmly invited to our first whole-school celebration of the year, our Harvest Assembly, which will take place at 9.00am next Friday. We would be delighted if you could join us as we come together to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest season.

****Please note that there will be no Celebration Assembly on this day****



**FOOD DONATIONS FOR
OUR LOCAL FOOD
BANK WILL BE
COLLECTED ON THE
THIS DAY**



FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES FOLLOW US



BRIGHTON COLLEGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



We were delighted to welcome 20 students and their teachers from Brighton College to St M's on Wednesday as part of their Make a Difference Day initiative. The students worked incredibly hard throughout the day, helping to weed and tidy the gardens, refresh the planters, completely reorganise the Early Years outdoor classroom, support children with various activities, and enhance several other areas of the school.

We are immensely grateful for their enthusiasm, kindness and hard work, all of which made a real difference to our school environment. The children thoroughly enjoyed having them with us and benefited greatly from their support and positive role models throughout the day. Thank you, Brighton College, for such a wonderful contribution to our school community.

NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week, I was delighted to meet all of our newly elected School Councillors for their first meeting of the year. During the meeting, we elected Lydia and Seth as our Chairs.

We spent time discussing what makes St Margaret's such a special place and identifying areas where we could make further improvements. The councillors will now take this important question back to their classes to gather the views and ideas of their classmates.

The School Councillors will also be leading a class vote on whether to reintroduce 'Mingle Mondays' at lunchtime. We look forward to hearing the outcome of the vote over the coming weeks!

It was a fantastic first meeting, and I am very much looking forward to working with our enthusiastic School Councillors throughout the year.





PTA NEWS



THANK YOU to everyone who stayed and attended the PTA meeting this morning. It was, without doubt, our best-attended meeting to date, and it was incredibly encouraging to see so many parents and volunteers keen to support our wonderful school.

A huge thank you, as always, to our PTA Committee for their hard work, dedication and commitment behind the scenes. Your efforts make such a difference to our school community.

Please see the poster below for details of an event being organised in support of the PTA. A special thank you to Mark for arranging this and helping to raise funds for the school.

We will be entering a staff team or two and would love to see lots of St Margaret's families getting involved as well. Why not gather some friends, form a team and come along to support both the event and our school community?

We hope to see many of you there! 😊

**ST MARGARET'S CE SCHOOL
ROTTINGDEAN**

CHARITY ? QUIZ NIGHT ?

Test your knowledge... make a difference!

**Quiz Master
MARK LANAHAN**

**WEDNESDAY
14TH OCTOBER 2026**

**REGISTRATION FROM 19.00
QUIZ STARTS AT 19.30**

**THE WHITE HORSES HOTEL
BAR AREA**

**CALL TO BOOK A TABLE
and support
ST MARGARETS SCHOOL**

**£1 FROM THE ENTRANCE
and £3 PER PERSON
WILL BE DONATED TO
ST MARGARET'S CE
SCHOOL
ROTTINGDEAN**

**After the quiz...
LIVE MUSIC SET
with Mark himself!**



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ATTENDANCE UPDATES

ILLNESS

Children do get ill from time to time—as we all do—and this may mean they need to take a few days off school. The NHS provides helpful guidance for parents on common childhood illnesses and how long children should stay off school. You can find it here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child is experiencing a recurring or ongoing medical issue, please let us know via the school office. We're here to support you and can involve the school nurse if needed to help address your child's health needs and work together to improve their attendance.

RED - STAY AT HOME

Sickness and diarrhoea

48 hours must have elapsed before a child can return to school from the last episode.

AMBER - COME TO SCHOOL & SPEAK WITH STAFF

Headache, feeling sick, stomach ache

Children often feel unwell if they are anxious. If in doubt contact the school for advice.

GREEN - COME TO SCHOOL

Mild cough, cold, sore throat, feeling tired

We will always contact you if your child is ill during the school day.

APPOINTMENTS

We kindly ask that, wherever possible, routine medical and dental appointments are scheduled outside of school hours, as these do impact your child's overall attendance percentage. We do understand that some appointments—such as hospital consultations—cannot always be arranged at more convenient times. If your appointment allows your child to attend school for registration before leaving, or to return afterwards, this can make a positive difference to their attendance record. If you do need to take your child out of school for an appointment, the office will need to see evidence of this appointment please.

Attending
school **regularly**
helps to build
confidence and
develop vital **life skills**





Missing **2 days**
of school
each month



Missing nearly
3 weeks during
a school year



TIME TIME HOLIDAYS

We are unable to authorise holidays during term time. Any request for absence must be submitted to Mrs Kershaw, Headteacher, for consideration. While we understand that holidays are often more affordable outside of school holidays, schools are only permitted to authorise term-time absences in exceptional circumstances. Unfortunately, securing a cheaper deal does not meet this threshold.

Please also be aware that children often share details of their time away—whether it's a trip abroad or a visit to places like Legoland—which can highlight unauthorised absences.

If you do need to request leave during term time for exceptional circumstances, please contact the Headteacher in writing at least two weeks before the proposed start date. Your request should include the reason for the absence and the specific dates. Please note: if a child is taken out of school for an unauthorised holiday, the Local Authority will issue a fixed penalty notice.

In order to support families securing cheaper holidays next year, we have fixed 3 of our INSET days together so families can go away earlier in July. Please see INSET dates.

The first fine is ...

£160 per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

The second fine is ...

issued to parent/carer within a period of 3 school years, the fine is £160 per parent/carer per child to be paid within 28 days and there is no reduction if paid within 21 days.

The third penalty ...

cannot be issued to the same parent/carer in respect of the same child, within 3 years of the first fine being issued. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action could be taken, such as prosecution.

There is no right of appeal once a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued, so disputes over how an absence is classified must be settled with the school before the absence is taken.

Full details relating to Fixed Penalty Notice amounts and thresholds can be found in the Code of Conduct on the Brighton & Hove City Council website.

Data shows pupils
with more than

95% attendance
achieve better GCSE
results!

at least one grade higher!



ATTENDANCE MONITORING

We have an Attendance Officer in school who monitors pupil attendance on a monthly basis. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you will receive a letter to make you aware and to offer support. Where significant or persistent absence or lateness is identified, you may also be contacted by the Education Welfare Officer to discuss the situation further.

Our priority is to work in partnership with parents and carers to support improved attendance and help every child succeed at school. If you have any concerns or would like advice regarding your child's attendance, please speak to their class teacher or contact the school office.



Coming into class late, when the rest of their peers have already started their learning could make your child feel quite anxious.

If your child is late everyday they will miss a chunk of the first lesson – this will put them behind their peers and mean they may miss out on key information required in the rest of the lesson.





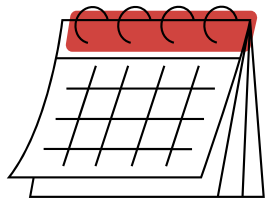
If children are not picked up on time at the end of the school day, the teacher will take them to the front office and office staff will phone parents/guardians.

If you know you are going to be late for pick-up it would be helpful if you contact the school on **01273 303109** so we can let your child know and alleviate any worries they may have.



Even **90%** attendance is still
19 days of education **lost** in a
school year





UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

A full list of dates are listed below, but here are the highlights for this half term.

Friday 25th September - Whole School Outdoor Enrichment Day

Friday 2nd October - Harvest Assembly

Wednesday 14th - Friday 16th October - Year 6 PGL Residential

Monday 19th & Wednesday 21st October - Parents Evening



Celebrating us!

Our learning skills winners are:



Hedgehogs - Evra

Foxes - Calleb

Squirrels - Roman

Badgers - Dexter

Otters - Beau

Woodpeckers - Cameron

Owls - Nyah

HOUSEPOINT LEADERS:

SAPPHIRE



CULTURAL CAPITAL AND ENRICHMENT AT ST MARGARET'S 2026-2027

Please find below the trips and planned events for each year group this year.

Following feedback from families, we have included indicative costs where possible so that you have an overview of what is coming up throughout the year and can plan and budget accordingly.

Whilst we endeavour to keep costs as accurate as possible, some prices may be subject to change depending on provider charges, transport costs and final pupil numbers.

We hope this information helps families to plan ahead and enables all children to benefit from the wide range of enriching experiences we have planned for the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year Group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYFS	Visit St Margaret's Church (£0)	Superhero Day (£0)	Middle Farm (£20) Traffic Survey in Village
Year 1	Goldilocks walk up the lane (£0)	Paradise Park (£15) Vet visit into school and to the village (£0)	King and Queen Day Castles, Knights and Princesses Workshop (£3)
Year 2	RNLI (£0)	Australia experience day (£0)	Brighton Pavillion Trip (£20)
Year 3	Michelham Priory (£25) Brighton Archaeologist Visit (£0)	China day (£0)	Pedestrian training (£0) Around the World workshop (£3)
Year 4	Bignor Roman Villa (£25)	Climate day (£0) Let's Dance at the Dome (£0)	Swimming lessons x 10 (£65) Ukulele lessons x 10 (£0)
Year 5	ROAR – Enterprise Challenge (£0) Hertsmonseux Science Centre (£20)	Battle of Hastings day (£0) Junior Roedean Academy (£0) Bike Ability Level 1 (£0)	Roam in the Rainforest workshop (£3) Chocolate Making Day
Year 6	Residential – PGL (£275) Bike Ability Level 2 (£0)	Safety In Action (£10) Antarctica Day (£0)	Deanery leavers Service (£0) Production Surf life-saving day (£0)

Trips with approximate costings

In school enrichment

External company/visitors onsite



FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES FOLLOW US



AUTUMN TERM CALENDAR 2026

Please find below the Autumn Term calendar.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure that all dates are accurate at the time of publication, unforeseen circumstances may occasionally require changes to be made. We therefore ask that families keep an eye on future newsletters, emails and school communications for any updates.

Please also note that additional events and dates may be added throughout the year as further opportunities and activities are confirmed.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

September 2026		
1	Tu	INSET
2	We	
3	Th	
4	Fr	
5	Sa	
6	Su	
7	Mo	
8	Tu	
9	We	Y5 to Herstonceux
10	Th	
11	Fr	
12	Sa	
13	Su	
14	Mo	Meet New Teacher Y6 Baseline Assessment week
15	Tu	
16	We	
17	Th	
18	Fr	
19	Sa	
20	Su	
21	Mo	
22	Tu	Flu Vaccine
23	We	
24	Th	
25	Fr	Whole School Outdoor Day
26	Sa	
27	Su	
28	Mo	
29	Tu	
30	We	

October 2026		
1	Th	Black History Month
2	Fr	9am Harvest Service
3	Sa	
4	Su	
5	Mo	
6	Tu	Small school football tournament
7	We	BHCM Harvest assembly
8	Th	
9	Fr	
10	Sa	
11	Su	
12	Mo	
13	Tu	
14	We	TOUR 9:30 am Y4 to Bignor Villa Y6 PGL
15	Th	Y6 PGL Small school football tournament
16	Fr	Y6 PGL
17	Sa	
18	Su	
19	Mo	Parents Evening
20	Tu	
21	We	Parents Evening
22	Th	
23	Fr	
24	Sa	
25	Su	
26	Mo	HALF TERM WEEK
27	Tu	
28	We	
29	Th	
30	Fr	
31	Sa	

November 2026		
1	Su	
2	Mo	
3	Tu	TOUR 9:30 am Y3 to Michelham Priory
4	We	
5	Th	
6	Fr	
7	Sa	
8	Su	
9	Mo	
10	Tu	
11	We	Remembrance Service Y5 and 6 Cross Country
12	Th	
13	Fr	
14	Sa	
15	Su	
16	Mo	Anti-bullying Week
17	Tu	
18	We	Individual Photos
19	Th	
20	Fr	
21	Sa	
22	Su	
23	Mo	
24	Tu	
25	We	
26	Th	
27	Fr	
28	Sa	
29	Su	1 st Sunday of Advent
30	Mo	Assessment Week

December 2026		
1	Tu	December Month
2	We	
3	Th	TOUR 9:30 am
4	Fr	2.30pm Y6 curriculum showcase
5	Sa	
6	Su	
7	Mo	
8	Tu	
9	We	
10	Th	2pm KS1 Nativity
11	Fr	Xmas Jumper Day 2pm KS2 Carol Service
12	Sa	
13	Su	
14	Mo	
15	Tu	
16	We	Xmas Dinner Day
17	Th	
18	Fr	
19	Sa	
20	Su	
21	Mo	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
22	Tu	
23	We	
24	Th	
25	Fr	Christmas Day
26	Sa	Boxing Day
27	Su	
28	Mo	Substitute day
29	Tu	
30	We	
31	Th	



SPRING TERM CALENDAR 2027

Please find below the Spring Term calendar.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure that all dates are accurate at the time of publication, unforeseen circumstances may occasionally require changes to be made. We therefore ask that families keep an eye on future newsletters, emails and school communications for any updates.

Please also note that additional events and dates may be added throughout the year as further opportunities and activities are confirmed.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

January 2027		
1	Fr	New Year's Day
2	Sa	
3	Su	
4	Mo	INSET
5	Tu	
6	We	Epiphany TOUR 9:30 am
7	Th	
8	Fr	
9	Sa	
10	Su	
11	Mo	
12	Tu	
13	We	
14	Th	
15	Fr	
16	Sa	
17	Su	
18	Mo	
19	Tu	
20	We	
21	Th	
22	Fr	
23	Sa	
24	Su	
25	Mo	
26	Tu	
27	We	
28	Th	
29	Fr	
30	Sa	
31	Su	

February 2027		
1	Mo	Book Fair
2	Tu	
3	We	
4	Th	
5	Fr	NSPCC Number Day
6	Sa	
7	Su	
8	Mo	Assessment Week
9	Tu	
10	We	Ash Wednesday
11	Th	
12	Fr	
13	Sa	
14	Su	
15	Mo	HALF TERM WEEK
16	Tu	
17	We	
18	Th	
19	Fr	
20	Sa	
21	Su	
22	Mo	
23	Tu	
24	We	
25	Th	
26	Fr	
27	Sa	
28	Su	

March 2027		
1	Mo	
2	Tu	
3	We	
4	Th	
5	Fr	
6	Sa	
7	Su	
8	Mo	
9	Tu	
10	We	
11	Th	
12	Fr	
13	Sa	
14	Su	
15	Mo	
16	Tu	
17	We	
18	Th	
19	Fr	
20	Sa	
21	Su	
22	Mo	Parents evening
23	Tu	
24	We	Parents evening
25	Th	9.15am Easter Service
26	Fr	Good Friday
27	Sa	
28	Su	
29	Mo	Easter Monday
30	Tu	EASTER HOLIDAYS
31	We	



SUMMER TERM CALENDAR 2027

Please find below the Summer Term calendar.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure that all dates are accurate at the time of publication, unforeseen circumstances may occasionally require changes to be made. We therefore ask that families keep an eye on future newsletters, emails and school communications for any updates.

Please also note that additional events and dates may be added throughout the year as further opportunities and activities are confirmed.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

April 2027		
1	Th	
2	Fr	
3	Sa	
4	Su	
5	Mo	
6	Tu	
7	We	
8	Th	
9	Fr	
10	Sa	
11	Su	
12	Mo	
13	Tu	
14	We	
15	Th	
16	Fr	
17	Sa	
18	Su	
19	Mo	
20	Tu	
21	We	
22	Th	
23	Fr	
24	Sa	
25	Su	
26	Mo	
27	Tu	
28	We	
29	Th	Y4 Swimming Starts
30	Fr	

May 2027		
1	Sa	Mental Health Awareness Month
2	Su	
3	Mo	Early May Bank Holiday
4	Tu	
5	We	
6	Th	Ascension Day
7	Fr	
8	Sa	VE Day
9	Su	SATS WEEK
10	Mo	
11	Tu	
12	We	
13	Th	
14	Fr	
15	Sa	
16	Su	Pentecost
17	Mo	
18	Tu	
19	We	
20	Th	
21	Fr	
22	Sa	
23	Su	
24	Mo	
25	Tu	
26	We	
27	Th	
28	Fr	
29	Sa	
30	Su	
31	Mo	Spring Bank Holiday

June 2027		
1	Tu	HALF TERM WEEK
2	We	
3	Th	
4	Fr	
5	Sa	
6	Su	
7	Mo	MTC WINDOW
8	Tu	
9	We	
10	Th	
11	Fr	
12	Sa	
13	Su	
14	Mo	PHONICS WEEK
15	Tu	
16	We	Withdean Athletics
17	Th	EYFS New Parents Meeting
18	Fr	
19	Sa	
20	Su	
21	Mo	
22	Tu	
23	We	
24	Th	
25	Fr	
26	Sa	
27	Su	
28	Mo	Assessment Week
29	Tu	
30	We	

July 2027		
1	Th	EYFS Stay & Play
2	Fr	
3	Sa	
4	Su	
5	Mo	
6	Tu	
7	We	
8	Th	
9	Fr	Reports to Parents
10	Sa	
11	Su	
12	Mo	
13	Tu	Y6 Leaver's Production
14	We	
15	Th	
16	Fr	Y6 Leavers Assembly
17	Sa	
18	Su	
19	Mo	INSET
20	Tu	INSET
21	We	INSET
22	Th	SUMMER HOLIDAYS
23	Fr	
24	Sa	
25	Su	
26	Mo	
27	Tu	
28	We	
29	Th	
30	Fr	
31	Sa	





School term dates 2026/27

St Margaret's CE Primary School

	September 2026					October 2026					November 2026					December 2026					
Monday		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Friday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Saturday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
Sunday	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	

	January 2027					February 2027					March 2027					April 2027						
Monday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	14	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Tuesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
Wednesday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	
Thursday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25			1	8	15	22	29
Friday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26			2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27			3	10	17	24	
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28			4	11	18	25	

	May 2027						June 2027					July 2027					August 2027					
Monday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Friday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	

Key

-  Bank holidays (see details below)
-  School holidays
-  INSET day for most schools
(5 INSET days in total, chosen by individual schools)

 First day of term

 Last day of term

Bank holidays 2026/27

Christmas Day	Fri 25 December 2026
Boxing Day (substitute)	Mon 28 December 2026
New Year's Day	Fri 1 January 2027
Good Friday	Fri 28 March 2027
Easter Monday	Mon 29 March 2027
Early May Bank Holiday	Mon 3 May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	Mon 31 May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	Mon 30 August 2027

Number of days (total requirement 195)

Autumn 1 st half	39
Autumn 2 nd half	35
Spring 1 st half	30
Spring 2 nd half	24
Summer 1 st half	34
Summer 2 nd half	33
TOTAL	195
(includes 5 INSET days)	



FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES FOLLOW US



FREE Family Sea Safety Workshop

Stay Safe at the Coast

Tides - Waves - Beach Safety

Learn About

- Lifeguard flags & Signs
- Safe Swimming advice
- Dangers
- Emergency Action
- Marine Wildlife

Discover

Build confidence and stay safe by the sea.

This session is both classroom & pool based

All sessions take place at:

Brighton Swimming Centre, BN2 5JJ

09:30-13:30

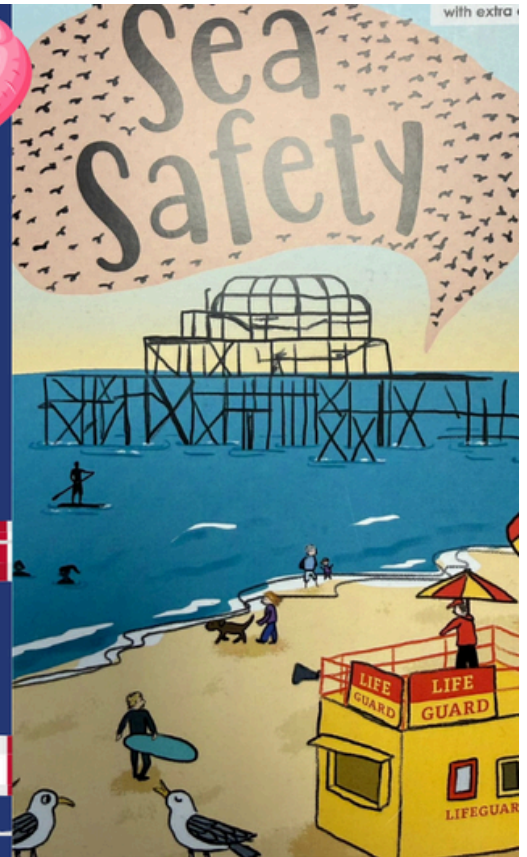
Monday 26th October 2026

Tuesday 27th October 2026



FREE for Children on Targeted Free School Meals
(Holiday Activities and Food Programme - HAF)

<https://eequ.org/brightonhovehaf>
Bookings Now Open



IMPORTANT UPDATE: CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

We would like to make families aware of important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, which will take effect from the start of the 2026-2027 academic year.

The government has confirmed that all children from households receiving Universal Credit (UC) will be eligible for free school meals, regardless of income. We want to ensure that every eligible child is registered so families receive the support they are entitled to and the school can continue to access vital funding.

From September 2026, there will be two FSM categories

Targeted Free School Meals

Children will qualify if their household:

- receives Universal Credit, and
- has annual earnings of £7,400 or less

Children in this category will receive:

- free school meals
- Pupil Premium funding for their school
- access to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- for secondary pupils, the extended rights element of school travel assistance (where applicable)

Extended Free School Meals

Children will qualify if their household:

- receives Universal Credit, and
- has annual earnings above £7,400

Children in this category will receive:

- free school meals only



Why registering matters

- your child can receive a free meal each school day
- the school receives extra funding to support learning, wellbeing and enrichment

Even if your child does not usually have a school meal, registration is still very important. Please contact the office for support in doing this.

You may be eligible if you receive:

Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related ESA, Child Tax Credit (with an income limit), or support under the Immigration and Asylum Act. (You do not need to be working or unemployed.)





BHISS

**Brighton and Hove
Inclusion Support Service**

Autism & Language Team Family Support Workshops

**Did you know we run online and in person
workshops every term?**

Some of our regular topics include...

Sensory regulation

Understanding autism

Demand avoidance /autonomy seeking

Masking

Post-16

Siblings

Transitions

Anxiety

Communication and language strategies

DLD

Understanding behaviour

.... and many more!

**Visit our padlet for more information about available
workshops, as well as lots of information about all
these topics.**



**[www.padlet.com/bhissFSW/
autismandlanguage](http://www.padlet.com/bhissFSW/autismandlanguage)**

