

20 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important updates: Arbor Parent App, free school meals and homework

As we prepare for the new academic year, we would be grateful if all parents and carers could review the information held about their child and complete any outstanding actions through the Arbor Parent App.

Checking your child's information

This year, our annual data-checking process will be completed through the Arbor Parent App. Please log in and check carefully that the details we hold for you and your child or children are complete and accurate.

In particular, please check:

- your child's date of birth;
- home address;
- telephone numbers and email addresses;
- additional emergency contact details;
- medical information;
- allergies;
- religion; and
- ethnicity.

You can notify us of any required changes through the app. Guidance can be found at [Viewing and Updating information on the Arbor Parent App/Portal.](#)

Allergies and medical information

It is especially important that parents and carers check the allergy information recorded for their child. In preparation for strengthened statutory guidance on allergy safety in schools, commonly associated with Benedict's Law, we must ensure that our records are as accurate and up to date as possible.

Please check the information already displayed in Arbor and add or update details where necessary. This should include food allergies, medication allergies, environmental allergies

and any previous severe reactions. Please also ensure that the school has been informed of any medication or emergency treatment your child may require.

Even if you have previously provided this information, we ask that you check it again to confirm that it remains correct.

Parental consents

Please check the Arbor Parent App for any outstanding consents requiring your consideration. Please open each notice, read the information carefully and follow the on-screen instructions to grant or decline consent as appropriate.

We ask all parents and carers to complete any outstanding consent requests as soon as possible.

Accessing the Arbor Parent App

If you have not yet registered for the Arbor Parent App, please email STMPortal@stm.srscmat.co.uk. We will then send you details explaining how to register and access your account.

Changes to free school meals from September 2026

From September 2026, free school meal eligibility for families receiving Universal Credit will be divided into two categories:

Targeted Free School Meals

Families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of **£7,400 or less** may qualify for Targeted Free School Meals. This provides:

- free school meals for the child; and
- additional Pupil Premium funding for the school.

This additional funding helps the school provide further educational support and opportunities for eligible pupils.

Expanded Free School Meals

All other **families receiving Universal Credit** may qualify for Expanded Free School Meals, **regardless of their earnings**. This provides:

- free school meals for the child; but
- no additional Pupil Premium funding for the school.

Families receiving Universal Credit should apply even if they are unsure which category applies to them. Applications can be made directly through Derbyshire County Council at:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Fusion VLE and homework

We are also giving parents and carers advance notice that we will be retiring the Fusion VLE App. This is due to operational changes affecting how the app is used.

Homework information will instead be moved into the Arbor Parent App. Further details and guidance about accessing and using homework through Arbor will be sent to parents and carers as we move forward with this transition.

We hope that continuing to reduce the number of apps parents and carers are required to use will make it easier to access important information and support your child's learning.

Thank you for your support in checking and updating this important information. Accurate records help us to communicate effectively with families and, most importantly, to keep every child safe and properly supported.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Redfern
Headteacher