

Back to School Checklist 2026/27

☒ School Uniform

- ☐ Check that your child's uniform still fits.
- ☐ Find out whether your local council offers a School Uniform Grant.
- ☐ Ask your school if they have a pre-loved uniform shop or uniform swap scheme.
- ☐ School shoes

☒ Free School Meals

- ☐ Check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals.
- ☐ From September 2026, all children from families receiving **Universal Credit** may be eligible for Free School Meals in state-funded schools in England. If you think you qualify, apply as soon as possible.

☒ Breakfast Club & After School Club

- ☐ Check whether your school offers a Breakfast Club.
- ☐ Ask about After School Club availability.
- ☐ Find out if your child is eligible for a free or subsidised place.

☒ School Essentials

- ☐ School bag
- ☐ Pencil case
- ☐ Stationery (if required)
- ☐ PE kit

☒ Lunchbox & Water Bottle

- ☐ Lunchbox
- ☐ Reusable water bottle
- ☐ Healthy snacks (where permitted by your school)

☒ Update Your School Contact Details

- ☐ Check your phone number is up to date.
- ☐ Update your email address if it has changed.
- ☐ Inform the school if you have moved home.

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Emergency Contacts

- ☐ Make sure your emergency contact details are up to date.
- ☐ Many schools now ask parents to provide **at least two emergency contacts** who can collect your child if you are unavailable.
- ☐ Check that both contacts know they have been listed and that their phone numbers are correct.

Health Information

- ☐ Tell the school about any allergies or medical conditions.
- ☐ Update details of any medication your child takes.
- ☐ Make sure any healthcare plans are current.

School Transport

- ☐ Plan the journey to school.
- ☐ If your child is entitled to school transport, make sure everything is arranged before the first day.

Get Back into a Routine

- ☐ Start earlier bedtimes a few days before school begins.
- ☐ Prepare school bags and uniforms the night before.
- ☐ Talk to your child about the new school year and answer any questions they may have.

Financial Support for Families

- ☐ See if you can claim Tax-Free Childcare to help with childcare costs.
- ☐ Check your eligibility for Free Childcare Hours if you have younger children.
- ☐ If you're receiving Universal Credit, make sure you're claiming all the childcare support and benefits you're entitled to.
- ☐ Visit your local council's website to see if additional help is available, such as school uniform grants, Household Support Fund payments or other local welfare schemes.