

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 09 October 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: sally.cresswell@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: When will free breakfast clubs be rolled out to Plympton children who's Parents are struggling to cover this cost?

Answer:

The below briefing has been shared with you in connection to the question you raised.

“Breakfast Clubs and Wraparound (Plympton)”

Date: 9th October 2025 Author(s): April Davies and Hannah Bruty

Breakfast Clubs Early Adopters

The DfE invited Primary Schools to apply to be a breakfast club adopter school in October 2024. These applications were made directly to the DfE. The local authority was not informed about which schools applied and was not part of the decision-making process.

As a result of the application process Plymouth has four schools which were selected to become early adopters. They have access to government funding to deliver free and universal breakfast clubs.

All four schools are feeding back to the local authority, local councillors and the DfE during this test and learn phase.

The four DfE funded early adopted schools are:

Pennycross Primary School

St Peters RC Primary

Marine Academy Primary

Pilgrim Primary Academy.

A Childcare Works regional event convened on the 9th October at which the DfE indicated 2000 new free Breakfast Clubs for 2026/27. The DfE representative was unable to confirm when this would be formally announced, including how and where the Breakfast Club provision would be allocated.

Plympton DfE Wraparound Childcare Programme (including those offering Breakfast Clubs)

In Plympton all mainstream primary schools offer wraparound childcare from at least 7.30am for breakfast club and until 6.00pm for after school club.

Three Primary Schools in Plympton have joined the Wraparound Programme:

- Yealmpstone Farm Primary School, have wraparound childcare from 7.30am-6.00pm, they have received revenue funding to expand the provision by sixteen places to meet demand from their families.
- Plympton St Mary Church of England Infants and Old Priory Junior Academy run a cluster model. At Old Priory, they had wraparound childcare from 7.30am-5.45pm. They have received funding to extend the provision to 6.00pm from September to meet the DfE wraparound aim.
- Boringdon Primary School, outsource their childcare to Premier Education. The Wraparound Childcare Officer is currently working with the private provider to increase their capacity.

Other relevant childcare providers in Plympton:

- Glen Park Primary School has been supported by the Wraparound Childcare Officer to change from a private provider to a school run provision. This will ensure the sustainability and longevity of the setting for local families.
- Chaddlewood Primary School, Plympton St Maurice and Woodford Primary School all have a private provider providing their wraparound childcare. They have all been contacted by the Wraparound Childcare Officer and encouraged to join the wraparound programme. These three schools have expressed a view that they are already meeting parents needs and do not plan to participate in the expansion programme.

In summary:

Four Plymouth Primary Schools were selected by the DfE to be free, universal breakfast adopter schools. These schools have access to funding to provide free and universal breakfast clubs.

All other schools who provide breakfast clubs as part of their extended offer and fund this through charging parents, they do not have access to the early adopters DfE fund.

Through delivery of the Wraparound Funding (which is separate to the universal breakfast club adopter funding), Plymouth City council has supported 32 schools across the city to create new provision or to expand their provision supporting more parents to access breakfast clubs and after school care. The programme is designed to fund the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision to meet existing unmet demand. It is also designed to remove the financial risk of setting up or expanding wraparound provision where sufficient demand is not guaranteed to sustain provision initially (but where sufficient demand may be built over time, as parents are assured of the supply of places). The expectation is that this over-supply of places will help to generate additional demand, as parents are assured of the availability of provision. The schools and providers in the Plympton area who have been supported to expand their wraparound offer are described earlier in this paper.”

Signed:

Date: 22 October 2025

