

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to update you about the school holiday food voucher scheme previously funded by the Government's **Household Support Fund (HSF)**.

Since 2021, West Northamptonshire Council has used part of the HSF to provide food vouchers during school holidays for pupils who receive benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM). This support has helped many families during a period of increased cost of living pressures.

End of the Household Support Fund

The national Household Support Fund, which has helped provide holiday food vouchers in recent years, comes to an end on 31 March 2026.

Families who applied between October 2025 and February 2026 have already received the final voucher for the Easter 2026 school holiday.

As this national funding has now closed, no further holiday vouchers can be issued, including applications submitted after the deadline.

Available support

Although the voucher scheme has now ended, there are still ways families can receive support:

- **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme:**
Children who receive benefits-related FSM can continue to access free holiday activities, along with a meal, during the major school holidays details can be found here: <https://www.holidayactivities.org>
- **Community Larders and Social Supermarkets**
There is a wide network of local community food support offering affordable groceries year-round, more details can be found at <https://faawn.co.uk>

New National Scheme - Crisis & Resilience Fund

From 1 April, the Government will introduce the **Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF)**.

This scheme provides support for households facing an **unexpected one-off financial crisis** and includes help to improve longer-term financial resilience.

CRF does not fund holiday food vouchers.

If your family experiences an unexpected financial crisis, further information about CRF support will be available on the West Northamptonshire Council website from 1 April.

Kind regards,

West Northamptonshire Council