



**Kent Children
and Young People**

Free Reconnect Offers for Christmas

Kent County Council's Reconnect Programme is helping children and young people reconnect with family this Christmas.

Discover more, visit:
kent.gov.uk/reconnect



Overview

You will soon be receiving a text/email from Evoucher.com containing vouchers so you can access three **free** offers provided through Kent County Council's Reconnect Programme. You may have previously received your supermarket vouchers for school holidays through this system. This leaflet gives you information about these offers, and any terms and conditions.

Free School Meal Provision for the Christmas, February, and Easter Breaks

Kent County Council understands that there are many pressures on families income currently. To help, it has agreed to give supermarket vouchers to families eligible for income-related free school meals for the next Christmas, February Half-term, and Easter holidays. Vouchers are of the value of £15 per eligible child, per week. You will receive two weeks of vouchers for Christmas in the text/email from Evoucher.com. Vouchers for February and Easter will be issued just ahead of those holidays to ensure all families eligible at that time receive these.

Free bus pass for families this Christmas!

Kent's bus companies have also said they want to help families Reconnect this Christmas and have kindly offered to provide free bus travel for families who receive income-related free school meals, and to those taking up *Free for 2* nursery places. These can be used by either:

- one adult and up to three children, or
- two adults and up to two children.

One of the vouchers you receive is your link to your electronic family bus pass. You can simply download it to your phone or transfer it to your partner for them to download to theirs.

How to use your bus pass

- You can use your electronic bus pass from Saturday 18 December until and including Monday 3 January.
- You need to show your electronic bus pass to the driver
- You need to travel as a family (at least one adult and one child).
- You can use it for journeys throughout the day, and for evening journeys that start before 8pm.
- You can use it to travel within KCC's boundaries, but not beyond (i.e., in neighbouring authorities - Medway, Sussex, Surrey or the London Boroughs of Bromley or Bexley).
- You can transfer the pass to one other adult within your family, but this will deactivate the pass for you. You will not be able to transfer passes to another family.

You can use your pass on the services provided by the following operators:

- Arriva
- Chalkwell
- Go Coach
- Nu-Venture
- Stagecoach

It can also be used on other services that KCC supports, details of which can be found [here](#). Please note, there will be a few bus services that won't be covered by the pass.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Free exciting, enriching activities for children and young people during the school holidays, with healthy, nutritious food – that's what the HAF Programme in Kent offers to children eligible for income-related free school meals. It also supports their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Children aged 4 to 16 years, who are eligible for free school meals, can access these opportunities in the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays for **free**.

This Christmas, alongside the normal offer, we have been able to fund HAF providers to take participating children on a trip, such as to the panto or an ice rink, with both the cost of entry and travel covered by the programme.

The other good news is that HAF is here to stay. In his budget statement the Chancellor confirmed funding for the HAF Programme to continue for the next three financial years. Why not give it a try this Christmas?

The third voucher you will receive will enable you to find out where your local HAF Activities are happening, to contact the provider, and to let them know your child is eligible for a free place.

Contact

If you have any queries, please first speak to your school office. If you do need to contact the Reconnect Team, you can do so at reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk.