

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Changes to Holiday Food Vouchers

The Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme has been ended by the Government as of **March 2026**. Free school meal support during school holidays is expected to transition to an end.

The Transitional Support Timeline

To prevent an immediate cutoff, a final, temporary transitional funding period has been put in place for 2026:

- **Easter & May Bank Holidays:** Paid at the current rate of **£3 per day**.
- **Summer Holidays:** Reduced to **£2 per day** (Note: Vouchers purchased above £2 during this time cannot be reimbursed).
- **Post-Summer Holidays:** Financial support through holiday vouchers will **officially cease**.

What This Means for Families


Because these supermarket vouchers have been heavily relied upon for a long time, families need to prepare for this support to end after the upcoming Summer holidays.

Alternative Support Packages Available

While the holiday vouchers are ending, other support structures are actively available to help bridge the gap:

The Big Food Truck (By The Big Food Project)

An innovative mobile program bringing high-quality, affordable food (sourced from rescued surplus stock) directly to local communities. It offers various low-cost bag options ranging from individual setups (£5) to large family bundles (£8–£16).

- **Action:** Families are encouraged to visit and order.
-  **Link to share with families:** [The Big Food Project – The Big Food Truck](#)

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF)

- Provides activities and food during the holiday periods.
- Check the Council's webpage for program locations and details.

Universal Credit FSM Extension (September 2026)

- Starting **September 2026**, the Government is extending criteria so **any child in a household claiming Universal Credit** will get Free School Meals during term time.
- This is intended to help free up household income ahead of future holiday periods.

Emergency Crisis Payments

- For families experiencing an immediate financial crisis, emergency help is accessible.

- Applications can be made directly via the Council's **Crisis and Resilience Fund** webpage.