

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, North 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 comes to an end on 31 March 2026. Families who are eligible have received their vouchers to cover and include Easter 2026 school holiday.

As this national funding has now closed, no further holiday vouchers can be issued, unless families become eligible between now and the end of Easter Holiday 2026.

Available support

Although the voucher scheme has now ended, there is still support for families who may need it:

- **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme:**
Children who receive benefits-related FSM can continue to access free holiday activities, and a meal, during the major school holidays. You can find details at: <https://www.holidayactivities.org>
- **Community Foodbanks and Support:**
There is a wide network of community organisations offering affordable groceries and other support throughout the year round. You can find information on the 'Our Support Offer' page: [Support offer | North Northamptonshire Council](#)

New National Scheme - Crisis & Resilience Fund

The Government is introducing the **Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF)**. This new scheme is designed to support households facing an **unexpected one-off financial crisis** and to help to improve longer term financial resilience.

CRF cannot provide Free School Meal holiday vouchers, but we can help with urgent food needs caused by a crisis.

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

Kind regards,

North Northamptonshire Council