

Date: 4 March 2026

Ref: Free School Meals in Holidays

County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know that support for Free School Meals in school holidays from the national government is ending.

As a recipient of Free Schools Meals in term time, you have also received vouchers for food in school holidays. This was funded by the UK Government's Household Support Fund, but the government has now confirmed that this fund is ending on the 31 March 2026. This means that the holiday food vouchers that you have received will end after this date. However, you are eligible for a £5 voucher, per child, to cover the two days of the Easter holiday still covered by this fund.

Support is still available if you need help

Wiltshire Council is working with the Wiltshire Citizens Advice team to help families who may be struggling. If this change is going to cause you hardship during the holidays you can contact them by completing the online form: www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us and a member of the team will contact you to discuss your situation.

If you are unable to complete this online form, please ask your child's school or educational setting to help you with this in the first instance.

This new support is being funded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which starts on 1 April 2026, and is also government funded. But this new fund does not include a provision for automatic free school meals in the holidays.

Holiday Activity and Food (FUEL) programme

Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are also eligible to attend our Holiday Activity and Food programme called Food, Unity, Energy and Laughter (FUEL) during school holidays which offers free activities and meals.

Easter holiday booking requests are open until 15 March 2026, and can be made via this link <https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuelprogramme>

For more information about FUEL please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure/fuel-programme or speak to your child's educational setting.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

David Redfern
Director – Leisure, Culture and Communities