



8 Dunsham Lane, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 2DB

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Tuesday, 14 April 2026

Free School Meal holiday vouchers

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know about an important change to the support available for families who receive Free School Meals.

The Government has ended the Household Support Fund, which previously funded **automatic Free School Meal food vouchers**. This national funding has been replaced by a new scheme called the **Crisis and Resilience Fund**, which has different rules. Under the new guidance, councils are no longer allowed to provide blanket support and must instead focus on helping families who are experiencing a sudden financial difficulty.

What this means for families in Buckinghamshire

- Free School Meal holiday vouchers will no longer be provided automatically after May half-term
- Vouchers **WILL** still be provided for May half-term 2026
- After this, families will need to access support through other programmes rather than receiving vouchers automatically

What support is still available

Even though automatic vouchers are ending, support for families **has not stopped**. Families can still access:

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

This provides **free holiday activities and hot meals** for children who receive Free School Meals.

There is also information about local *kids eat free* schemes and community cafés.

Helping Hand service (Buckinghamshire Council)

Families experiencing a **financial shock or hardship** may be able to receive targeted support, including help with food, energy costs, and essential living expenses.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/help-with-the-cost-of-living/>



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Buckinghamshire Council will confirm full arrangements after their Cabinet meeting on **21 April**, and we will share any further updates as soon as we receive them.
If you are worried about providing food for your child during school holidays or need support, please do not hesitate to speak to us or use the services above.

Yours Sincerely,

Elmhurst School

