

To: Parents who receive free school meal supermarket vouchers

Date: 27th February 2024

Since 2020, Bracknell Forest Council has been committed to supporting low-income households with children who receive free school meals by providing £15 vouchers per week per pupil to assist with the cost of food during school holidays. These vouchers have been made possible through the Household Support Fund; a central government grant dedicated to support local councils in addressing cost-of-living expenses.

The current grant is set to conclude on March 31, 2024. As a result, the distribution of vouchers will end after the last round of payments which will cover the Easter 2024 Holidays. Following this no vouchers will be distributed. The government has not yet announced any direct replacement for this funding.

Despite this, additional support for low-income households during school holidays will continue through the Holidays, Activities, and Food programme (HAF) until 2025. The HAF provides enriching and exciting activities as well as a healthy free meal or snack during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas Holidays.

For more information on help with living costs, please refer to Bracknell Forest Council's cost-of-living website or contact the council directly at 01344 352000. Help is also available across the borough from our voluntary, community and faith sector partners (listed below)

- Help with Food = Bracknell and Crowthorne foodbank. You will need a referral from somebody such as the council, or citizens advice bureau to access the foodbank to receive an emergency food package.
- Help With Food – The Lighthouse Project. You can self-refer to the project if you are experiencing deep poverty in the Binfield and central Bracknell areas. Call 01344 421079.
- Help with child related costs – The Cowshed. You will need a referral from somebody such as the council, or citizens advice bureau to access help. The cowshed can help with clothing, bedding, school uniforms and hygiene packs.
- Help with child related costs – First Days. You can refer yourself to First Days for help with school uniform costs. Please call 0118 921 9338.
- Help with child related costs – The Baby Bank. Ideally you will need a referral from a welfare based professional working with your family. You may self-refer but a professional contact will be required to complete the form. Help with items such as clothing and some school uniform can be given.

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Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD
T: 01344 352000 www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

- Help with money and finances – Citizens Advice Bureau. Free advice around debt, benefits, housing, and legal issues. No need for a referral, call 0808 278 7914.



Link: Bracknell Forest Holiday Activities and Food programme



Link: Bracknell Forest cost-of-living support

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