



10th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Free School Meals

We are writing to inform you of changes to the Holiday Food Voucher Scheme for benefit related Free School Meal children.

Since December 2020, the Local Authority has been able to provide supermarket vouchers to families, supported through government funding streams. From October 2021 onwards, this was funded through the Household Support Fund, a national programme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) designed to help households with the cost of living.



The government has now confirmed that the Household Support Fund will come to an end in 2025. Unfortunately, this means we will no longer be able to issue vouchers to children who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals for the holiday periods.

We understand that this change may be difficult for some families, and we want to reassure you that support is still available. If you feel you may need additional help, we encourage you to visit the Hertfordshire County Council 'Cost of Living Support' pages on the council website, where you can find information about a range of services and assistance options.

Yours sincerely

A Weaver

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