

My ref: CHVS – Easter 2026
Your ref: Holiday Voucher Scheme

Date: 12 March 2026

Contact: Holiday Voucher Scheme
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Children, Education & Families
Executive Director: Martin Purbrick

To Parents/Carers of pupils in Cambridgeshire
Schools and Early Years Settings

Education Directorate
New Shire Hall
Emery Crescent
Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon
PE28 4YE

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Household Support Fund, which has financed the holiday voucher scheme, will end on 31 March 2026. The withdrawal of this means that funding is no longer available to continue the existing holiday voucher scheme.

The Council remains committed to enabling all children to thrive, and to reduce the impact on families who have been receiving holiday vouchers, has committed to funding a revised holiday free school meal offer until the planned expansion of free school meal eligibility in September 2026.

For the Easter holidays, we will continue to issue vouchers to those families meeting the low-income criteria for the following support:

- Free school meals - If your child receives Universal Infant Free School Meals (in Reception, Y1 and Y2) but you do not meet the criteria for Income-Related Free School Meals, you will not be eligible for a supermarket voucher during the holiday period.
- Funded childcare for 2 year olds
- Early Years Pupil Premium
- Students in Sixth Form eligible for Free School Meals (young people aged 16-19)

Appendix 1 of this letter outlines the different income related eligibility criteria based upon children's age. For eligible young people attending Sixth Form Colleges / Further Education establishments, information on how support will be offered will be sent directly by the college.

Details of how to apply for income related Free School Meals can be found [here](#) – there is a [simple application form](#) which only requires a few details for an instant eligibility check. Each successful application will also bring up to £1,500 additional funding for your child's school.

For the Easter Holiday, our scheme will operate as follows –

We will issue each eligible child/young person with a **£20 voucher** via email and/or text. The voucher will be sent on **Saturday 28 March**. You will be able to choose from a number of different supermarkets.



- Vouchers may take until 9pm on Saturday 28 March to be delivered. If you haven't received your voucher by Sunday 29 March, please [contact us](#). **Please include your child/ren's name and their school/ setting in your email.**
- Any children who become eligible up until Sunday 12 April will also receive a voucher. This will be sent when we are notified of newly eligible children by our Education Welfare Benefits Team.
- Details of the supermarkets which will accept the vouchers and how the voucher scheme works can be found in the frequently asked questions document sent with this letter.
- All **vouchers must be claimed by midday on Friday 1 May 2026**. We are **unable to reinstate unclaimed vouchers** after this date.
- If you **do not** wish to receive the food vouchers, please let your school or setting know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate them.

If you would like information and ideas on how to eat more healthily as a family, NHS Change4life has lots of useful information - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes>.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Callaghan
Service Director: Education