

10 July 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

Further to the letter sent in May, we are writing to remind you about the change to holiday free school meal vouchers and send information about potential sources of support.

What has changed?

In the past, some families received food vouchers during the school holidays. These vouchers were paid for by money from the Government, through the Household Support Fund.

The Government stopped this funding from 31 March 2026. Because of this, holiday food vouchers will no longer be given out during school holidays. There is a new scheme called the [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) which is available to help people facing a sudden financial crisis – however there is less funding available and it has to be used for different purposes.

What help is still available?

A leaflet is attached that lists some of the potential sources of support available to families.

Please know that support is still available for those experiencing financial difficulties, and we'll continue to share information as plans for Worcestershire are developed.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Perrott



Assistant Director for Communities

Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire cost of living support

A quick guide for parents and carers

Families across Worcestershire can access a wide range of support with food, energy, finances, wellbeing and holiday activities. Below are some schemes and organisations who may be able to offer support.

Worcestershire County Council – Cost of Living Support

General information on sources of support with cost of living is available on [Worcestershire County Council's website](#).

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

For more information visit the [HAF pages on the Worcestershire County Council webpages](#).

Worcestershire County Council – Crisis and Resilience Fund

General information, and updates on schemes will be on [Worcestershire County Council's website](#).

Free, confidential, cost-of-living advice is available via the [Worcestershire Advice Network partners](#).

For low income families that rely on oil or LPG to heat their homes, refer to [Act on Energy](#).

For low income families, support is available with broken or faulty heating systems, via [Act on Energy](#).

Energy

Act on Energy -

www.actonenergy.org.uk/area/worcestershire

District Council Support

Information on support from District Councils is available on their websites:

Bromsgrove District Council

- [Your Services Working Together For You](#)
- [Essential Living Fund](#)

Malvern Hills District Council

- [Support and advice](#)

Redditch Borough Council

- [Your Services Working Together For You](#)
- [Essential Living Fund](#)

Worcester City Council

- [Support with the cost of living crisis](#)
- [Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme](#)

Wychavon District Council

- [Cost of living support](#)
- [Exceptional Hardship Fund](#)

Wyre Forest District Council

- [Financial support](#)
- [Welfare support scheme](#)

Food

Apply for Free School Meals - [Worcestershire County Council](#)

Tesco offered free fruit for kids in store from 27 April to 31 May 2026 and will continue the initiative across school holidays for the rest of 2026 (excluding December) - [Free Fruit and Veg for Schools](#)

Other supermarkets may offer similar schemes.

Trussell Trust

- [Find a food bank](#)

Independent Food Bank Network

- [Our Members](#)

Community Fridges

- [Community Fridge - Worcestershire County Council](#)
- [Community Fridge Network - Hubbub](#)

Tips to reduce food waste, save money and help the planet - [FoodSavvy - Worcestershire County Council](#)

Healthy Start: food and vitamin support. If you are more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk as part of the Healthy Start Government Scheme - [Healthy Start: food and vitamin support - Worcestershire County Council](#)

Family Hubs

Information about Family Hubs - [Worcestershire County Council](#)

Worcestershire County Council - Community Services Directory

You can search for organisations that support with health and wellbeing on the [Community Services Directory](#).