

Dear Parent or Carer

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers were funded through the Government's Household Support Fund. This ended on the 31st March 2026. This means that the May half term vouchers will be the last to be issued.

Instead, families will be able to access lots of support through the new Crisis and Resilience Fund. This can help with one-off payments for unexpected financial shocks.

We will also be investing in services that can help maximise income, give budgeting and debt advice, and build longer-term financial resilience.

Information on all of this help is available through our cost-of-living support pages:

or Google "Shropshire Cost of Living"



Further cost of living support

What help is there?

If you need support during the current cost of living crisis, or have experienced a recent financial shock, lots of help and advice can be found at - <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/>

This help is available to low-income households but is **not** just for those on benefits.

- [Shropshire Local](#)
 - You can visit one of our Shropshire Local hubs. Staff will be able to talk you through available support and signpost you to any help available.
 - Shropshire Local Mobile is available in more locations – you can find out where and when by [clicking here](#).
 - or call – on **0345 678 9007**
- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)
 - Children who are on free school meals also qualify for the HAF programme. Information on this scheme, such how to apply are available through the above link.
- [Community hubs | Shropshire Council](#)
 - You can find lots of activities and support services in Shropshire's community hubs, such as:
 - early help for families
 - domestic abuse support
 - help to stop smoking
 - information about housing
 - and much more
 - Hubs are in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Highley & Whitchurch.
- Other help and advice are available through our partners. Such as,
 - Advice and support on how to budget
 - How to raise your income through benefit entitlements
 - Telling you about any other help you may be able to get.
 - Support on reducing energy bills or debts.

Government help

- Further information on the national schemes to support families can be found at: [Cost of living support: Overview - GOV.UK](#)
- [Universal Credit: What Universal Credit is - GOV.UK](#)
- [Child Benefit: How it works - GOV.UK](#)
- [Free Childcare for Working Parents: Check if you're eligible - GOV.UK](#)

Whilst we are unable to continue to provide the holiday vouchers as we have previously, please be aware that support and advice is available for those struggling through our new scheme, and we would urge those in financial difficulty to reach out for support.

Yours faithfully,

Heather Kidd

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Andy Hall

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Education, Shropshire Council*

Tanya Miles

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