

## **Household Support Fund Discretionary Grant Funding – February Half Term and Easter Holidays 2025.**

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is pleased to confirm that the Government announced a six-month extension to the Household Support Fund from September 2024 to March 2025.

We can confirm that funds have been made available for SCC to extend the support previously provided to low-income families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) over the February half term and Easter holidays 2025.

To ensure that SCC meets the reporting requirements of the Household Support Fund, **families need to redeem all vouchers by Friday 11 April 2025**. To allow sufficient time for families to redeem their vouchers, we will be distributing the vouchers for both holiday periods together, prior to the start of the February half term.

The grant will be issued as a **£45** supermarket voucher for each eligible child from our provider **Pluxee** to cover both the February Half term (£15) and Easter holidays (£30).

Please can **all schools ensure that parents are aware that these vouchers cover two holiday periods** and that these will have a two-month expiry date, after which vouchers cannot be reissued.

If any child should become eligible after the February half term, prior to the start of the Easter holidays, a voucher will be issued by our team by the end of term.

### **What do I need to do?**

The Free School Meals Team will email the primary contact we hold at each school with information which:

- provides schools with a spreadsheet to advise us of their FSM-eligible student's information including email addresses / mobile phone numbers for the voucher distribution. Please **complete this spreadsheet** and send back to [freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk) by **Friday 31 January 2025**.
- includes a letter to parents/carers which we ask schools to distribute to eligible families explaining the voucher process and explaining that vouchers for February and Easter are being provided together.
- asks schools to provide parents/carers with the contact details of the Free School Meals Team in the event of any queries.

- provides information on sending vouchers via text message to mobile phones where email addresses are unavailable.

Should you have any questions or discrepancies in your eligibility list, please contact the Free School Meals Team at [freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk).

If any families are not currently eligible for free school meals but need support, please signpost to Suffolk County Council's Public Health Team who operate the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) and may be able to provide financial support.

Please see the website page at [Cost of living support | Suffolk County Council](#) for further support and information.

We thank you again for your support in helping us to distribute the Household Support Fund to help low-income families.