

30 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Important information regarding Household Support Fund discretionary grant

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is pleased to confirm that the Government announced a further extension to the Household Support Fund from April 2025 to March 2026.

Whilst there has been a £1.2 million reduction in the funding allocation to SCC from the Government, we can confirm that SCC is committed to extending the support provided to low-income families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) and therefore will be providing vouchers for the upcoming **May half term 2025**.

We want to ensure that families are aware that there may be further reductions in Government funding in the future. This could impact SCC's ability to provide discretionary vouchers after March 2026.

The grant will be issued as a **£15** supermarket voucher for each eligible child from our provider **Pluxee** and is designed to help families with their essential living costs during the holiday.

Please can we remind you that all vouchers will have a 2-month expiry date to be redeemed.

Once redeemed, the expiry conditions of your chosen supermarket will apply, and you will have a minimum of 12 months to use the voucher. Therefore, it is vital you redeem the voucher even if you wish to spend it later.

We urge you to contact our team as soon as possible if you encounter any issues redeeming your voucher as we will not be able to reissue vouchers once they have expired.

As with previous issues of vouchers, the SCC Free School Meals (FSM) team will place the voucher order using the information provided by your child's school.

Please ensure that your child's school holds the most up to date contact information for you, so that the voucher is sent to the correct recipient.

If the school has previously printed the vouchers on your behalf, then this arrangement will continue, or you can ask for the voucher to be sent via text message to your mobile phone number. Please inform your school if you wish to receive the vouchers via text message, if you have previously been unable to receive them via email.

We aim to have all vouchers sent to recipients by **Thursday 22 May 2025**. If you have **not received the vouchers by this date** or in the event of any queries regarding the vouchers, then please contact our team at reeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk, rather than speaking to the school directly.

Please note, that if you have children who attend different Suffolk schools, you may receive your vouchers at separate times.

If you have more than one child at the same school, you will only receive one email and the additional vouchers will be visible once you click on the redemption link.

Please look out for an email from noresponse@vouchers.pluxee.uk, and please also check junk and spam folders before contacting us directly.

We hope that this discretionary grant goes some way to help in supporting your family during the school holiday, whether buying food or freeing up some income to go towards energy and water bills or other essential living costs.

If you are financially struggling and require additional support, further information can be found at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Nicholas', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lucy Nicholas (she/her)

Resource Manager (Admissions and School Travel)

Directorate of Children and Young People

Suffolk County Council