



5th October 2021

Dear parent/carer

We are writing to let you know that children and young people **with a current / protected benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) claim** are being offered **free access to food, funded through the City of Wolverhampton Council, during the October half-term holiday week (25 – 31 October 2021)**.

To access this support, your child must be attending a qualifying Wolverhampton school or Academy and have a current / protected benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) in place.

You will need to register your interest online at <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/October> between Saturday 2 and Friday 8 October 2021 inclusive, if your child is attending a qualifying setting in Wolverhampton and:

- your child has a current / protected FSM claim in place; or
- you meet the statutory eligibility criteria for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM), not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

If you don't have access to the internet, you can apply by phone (01902) 290241* between Monday 4 and Friday 8 October 2021 inclusive.

If you don't meet these requirements, please contact your child/ren's school/s to discuss your circumstances in confidence.

UIFSM are free meals provided to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of their family circumstances. These are only available to children who are attending school. UIFSM do not fit the above requirements.

Help with your application

- Please **only apply once**
- When your application has been successfully submitted, you will see a message on the screen **and** receive an automated acknowledgement email to the address provided on application
- If you **don't have access to the internet, or don't have an email address** please:
 - Contact your child/ren's school/s – they can help you to complete your application; or



- Call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241*. If you call before Monday 4 October 2021, they will not be able to help you with your application
- The **deadline to apply is Friday 8 October 2021**
 - If you do not apply before this date, your child/ren will not be able to access this support during the October half-term holiday, even if they are eligible to receive benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) during term-time

If your application is successful

- If your application is successful, you will receive a second email by Sunday 17 October 2021
- This email will include information about how to access this support
- If you think that you should have received a second email but you haven't by Sunday 17 October 2021, please first check your 'junk/spam' email, then call 01902 290241* or email freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk **between Monday 18 and Friday 22 October 2021.** You will need to provide a copy of the acknowledgement email you received when you completed your online application

If your application is **not** successful, or you need urgent help in the meantime, please speak with your child/ren's school/s in confidence, call 01902 290241* or visit the Council's Stay Safe Be Kind website (www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind) for information about other support that might be available to you.

**the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline is open during office hours (Mondays to Fridays only, excluding Bank Holidays).*

Kind regards

*Mrs C Gibbins
Head of School.*