



24<sup>th</sup> November 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 once again being offered **free access to activities and food, during the Christmas 2021 school holidays (20 December 2021 to 3 January 2022)**, funded through the City of Wolverhampton Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and the Household Support Fund.

To access HAF-funded activities and food provision for free, 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 [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/december](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/december) between Friday 19 and Friday 26 November 2021 inclusive or by phone (01902) 290241\* between Monday 22 and Friday 26 November 2021**, if your child is attending a qualifying school 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 meet these requirements, please contact the school office or call the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline on 01902 290241\* 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.*

#### Help with your application

- Please **only apply once**
- If you have made a mistake on your application, **please do not reapply**
- If we are unable to confirm your child/ren's eligibility for this support, your application will be declined and you will need to **contact us between Monday 6 and Friday 10 December 2021** if you believe your child is eligible for this support
- 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's school for help to complete your application; or call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241\* between Monday 22 and Friday 26 November 2021
- The **deadline to register is Friday 26 November 2021**
  - If you do not apply online or by phone before this date, your child will not be able to access HAF-funded activities and food for free during the Christmas 2021 school holidays, even if they are eligible to receive FSM during term-time.

If your application is successful

- If your application is successful, you will receive a second email from a "no-reply" email address **by Sunday 5 December 2021**
- This email will include information about how to access your child's HAF-funded activities and food for free
- If you think that you should have received a second email but you haven't by Sunday 5 December 2021, please first check your 'junk/spam' email folder/s, then call 01902 290241\* or email [freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk) **between Monday 6 and Friday 10 December 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's school in confidence, call 01902 290241\* or visit the Council's [Stay Safe Be Kind](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind) website ([www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind)) for information about other support that might be available to you.

*\*the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline (01902) 290241 is open during office hours (Mondays to Fridays only, excluding Bank Holidays).*

City of Wolverhampton Council will be closed on Bank Holidays Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 December 2021 and Monday 3 January 2022.

Kind regards

Mrs C Gibbins.