

My ref: Household Support – Autumn Half Term
Independent
Date: 14th October 2021
Contact: Please contact your school
for more information



To Parents/Carers of pupils in
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Independent Schools

People & Communities
Education Directorate

Dear Parent/Carer

Household Support Fund and Autumn Half Term

On the 30th September, the government announced the new Household Support Fund, to support vulnerable households over the winter months as they continue to recover from the pandemic. The Council will be offering this support to vulnerable families in the form of a Direct food Voucher Scheme. This support will cover the autumn half term which starts on the 25th October.

Any family who are in receipt of one of the following qualifying benefits, can make an application via the Council's Free School Meals online form at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to check their eligibility for a direct food voucher.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- Tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Please be aware that the support available relates to the direct food vouchers only and does not entitle you for any other provision going forward.

How the vouchers work

Each eligible child/young person will receive a £15 supermarket voucher once an application has been made and eligibility confirmed. The voucher will be sent by email and/or text to the nominated parent or carer. The voucher does not need to be used in a single shopping trip and once claimed will last for at least a year.

Details of the supported supermarkets and how E-vouchers works can be found in the frequently asked questions document sent with this letter. Please note that **all** unclaimed autumn half term vouchers will be withdrawn on the **3rd December**. Once you select a supermarket, the voucher will not be withdrawn and will be valid in line with the date on the voucher claimed. If you **do not** wish to receive the food vouchers, please let us know at winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk as soon as possible so that we can reallocate them.

If you would like information and ideas on how to eat more healthily as a family, NHS Change4life has lots of useful information - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes>.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Please include in any correspondence the name of your child, their date of birth and which education establishment they attend. This will avoid a delay in responding to your query.

Wider Support

We understand that as a result of the pandemic, there are many families eligible for the Direct Food Voucher Scheme that may need further support. We also know there will be families who don't meet the above criteria but are in need of support. Therefore, there is a network of hubs run by the city and district councils that will be able to help you to access further support. Details of support in your local area can be found below:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport

This support can include information and advice, as well as further food and fuel support or access to other essential supplies.

If you are unable to access the information online, you can call your local hub on 0345 045 5219. The team is available Monday – Friday 9am-5pm.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Lewis
Service Director – Education,
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council