Date: 4th October 2023
E-Mail: winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Our Ref: PHVS – October 2023

CHILDRENS SERVICES DIRECTORATE
Peterborough City Council
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

To parents/carers of pupils in Peterborough
schools and early years settings

Dear Parent/Carer,

Peterborough Holiday Voucher Scheme – October Half Term
Peterborough City Council will be continuing its holiday voucher scheme for the October Half Term Holiday using funding by the Department for Work and Pensions via the Household Support Fund.

Appendix 1 of this letter outlines the different income related eligibility criteria based upon a child's age. For eligible young people attending sixth form colleges/further education establishments, information on how support will be offered will be sent directly by the college.

Details of how to apply for income related Free School Meals, if you have not already done so, can be found here. There is a simple application form which only requires a few details and will instantly check if you are eligible. Each successful application will also bring up to £2,000 additional funding for your child's school.

Our scheme for the October half term holidays will operate as follows –
- We will issue each eligible child/young person with a £10 voucher via email and/or text. This will be sent on Saturday 21st October. You will be able to choose from ten different supermarkets.
- Vouchers may take until 9pm on Saturday 21st October to arrive so please contact us on the following day if you haven't received your voucher. Please include details of your child and their school / setting.
- Any children who become eligible up until the 27th October 2023 will also receive a voucher. These will be sent when we are notified of newly eligible children.
- Details of the supermarkets which will accept the vouchers and how the voucher scheme works can be found in the frequently asked questions document sent with this letter.
- All vouchers must be claimed by the 1st December. If unclaimed, we are unable to reinstate them at a later date.
- If you **do not** wish to receive the food vouchers, please let your school or setting know 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.

Yours faithfully,
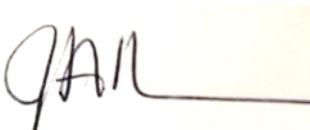
Councillor Jackie Allen
Cabinet Member for Children's Services &
Education
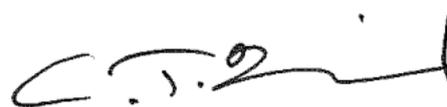
Chris Baird
Service Director – Education
Peterborough City Council

Appendix 1 – Eligibility for Direct Voucher Scheme

Parents eligible for Funded Childcare and Education for 2-year-olds under the income-based criteria
(children aged 2 with a date of birth between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:
- 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)

https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds

Parents eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium under the income-based criteria
(children aged 3 and 4 with a date of birth between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2020)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding

Parents eligible for Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you applied on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get Free School Meals.

If you wish to apply for a Free school meal, please apply online at http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply_for_Education_Welfare_Benefits

Eligible for 16-19 Free School Meals

Students aged 16 to 19 must be in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 per annum (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Free meals in further education funded institutions guide 2022 to 2023 academic year - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](http://www.gov.uk)

Other Eligibility

Children in care are not covered by the scheme as the costs of meals in the holidays are covered by fostering allowances.

The definition of a child is any person:
- who is under the age of 19 as at 21st October or
- a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit (for example, Child Benefit) is paid or Free School Meals are provided.
- Any young person aged 19 to 25 who has an EHCP and accesses the bursary scheme or free school meals in their college.

How to Claim Free School Meals

We understand that families continue to live in uncertain times, and many are facing changes to their financial circumstances as a result. If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals, or your name has recently changed, and feel you now meet the criteria below, please visit www.peterborough.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to apply online;

- Income Support.
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190.
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work fewer hours per week.
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.

Please note – our systems are shared with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Details of the holiday voucher scheme can be found here - https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/holiday-voucher-scheme