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18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **COVID GRANT – Easter Holiday Provision**

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to let you know that children and young people in Reception to Year 11 inclusive entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) are being offered support during the Easter 2022 holiday fortnight (11 to 24 April 2022).

Eligible children will be able to collect a food parcel and access HAF-funded activities with meals provided at the activity venue for free, funded through the City of Wolverhampton Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and Household Support Fund.

To access this support, your child must be in Reception to Year 11 inclusive, 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 [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/Easter](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/Easter) between Friday 18 and Sunday 27 March 2022 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 calling the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline on (01902) 290241 (*during office hours*) between Monday 21 and Friday 25 March 2022 inclusive.

*UIFSM are free meals provided to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of their family circumstances. These are only available during term-time to children who are attending school.*

Food parcels will contain ingredients for five lunches and breakfasts and will need to be collected. A list of venues, dates and times for food parcel collection will be shared with successful applicants, as well as details of activity providers and how to book.

Any special dietary requirements (e.g. medically-authenticated food hypersensitivity – allergy / intolerance) or preferences will need to be discussed with individual providers and at the food parcel collection point.

#### 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:
  - Call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241 (*during office hours, Mondays to Fridays, excluding Bank Holidays*) between Monday 21 and Friday 25 March 2022. If you call before Monday 21 March 2022, they will not be able to help you with your application



- **The deadline to apply is Sunday 27 March 2022**

- If you do not apply before this date, your child/ren will not be able to access this support during the Easter 2022 holiday fortnight, even if they are eligible to receive benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) during term-time

If your application is successful

- Successful applicants will receive a further confirmation email by Sunday 3 April 2022
- This email will include information about how to access this support
- If you think that you should have received a confirmation email but you haven't by Sunday 3 April 2022, please first check your 'junk/spam' email folder, then call the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline on 01902 290241 (*during office hours, Mondays to Fridays, excluding Bank Holidays*) or email [freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk) **between Monday 4 and Friday 8 April 2022**. You will need to provide a copy of the acknowledgement email you received when you completed your application online or by phone.

Support is available to all residents of the City of Wolverhampton in need at this time. More information is available at the Council's [Household Support Fund](#) and [Stay Safe Be Kind](#) pages, the Government's free and impartial [Money Helper Service](#) or [contact Citizens Advice](#) for free, reliable information. Visit [www.yowolves.co.uk](http://www.yowolves.co.uk) for more information about services and activities available for children and young people across the City of Wolverhampton.

If you urgently need help with providing food for your child/ren, please contact your child/ren's school/s or call the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline on 01902 290241 (*during office hours, Mondays to Fridays, excluding Bank Holidays*) to discuss your circumstances in confidence.

City of Wolverhampton Council will be closed on Bank Holidays Friday 15 and Monday 18 April 2022.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Gibbon