



Dear Parent/Carer

We know that times are still hard for many families and individuals. The Government's "Covid Winter Grant Scheme" was announced in December 2020, to help those most in need during the winter months and extended in February 2021 to include the Easter holidays.

We are writing to let you know that you can apply for support from City of Wolverhampton Council, to help with providing food for your child/ren during the Easter holiday fortnight (5 – 18 April 2021).

This provision is **not** the same as the support for children with a registered benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) claim during previous periods of partial school closure.

This support will be provided as a **food parcel**, containing a selection of healthy snacks and lunch items, for home delivery (or collection from a central location where possible). If your child has special dietary requirements (e.g. medically-authenticated allergy), please ask your child's school to make the referral on your behalf.

Your child does **not** need to be registered for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM), but you will need to apply and meet the extended eligibility criteria to receive this support.

You can **apply online** at <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/easter> **between 16 and 23 March 2021** if you are:

- eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)*; or
- entitled to Working Tax Credit with annual income less than £16,190; or
- receiving Universal Credit with take-home pay between £616.68 and £1,233.33 a month; or
- waiting for your first Universal Credit payment

If you would like to apply for support but don't meet these requirements, please contact the school office 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**
- When your application has been successfully submitted, you will see a message on the screen **and** receive a confirmation email to the address provided on application
- If you **don't have access to the internet, or don't have an email address** please:
 - Let us know – we can help you to complete your application
 - Or, call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241*. If you call before 16 March 2021, they will not be able to help you with your application
- The **deadline to apply is Tuesday 23 March 2021**
 - If you do not apply before this date, you will not be able to receive support during the Easter holiday fortnight, even if your child is eligible to receive support during term-time

If your application is successful

- If your application is successful, you will receive a second email by 1 April 2021
- This email will include information about your food parcel (for delivery or collection from a central point from 6 April onwards)
- If you think that you should have received a second email but you haven't by 1 April 2021, please first check your 'junk/spam' email, then call 01902 290241* or email freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk **after** Friday 2 April 2021. You will need to provide a copy of the confirmation email you received when you completed your online application

If your application is **not** successful, or you need urgent help in the meantime, please 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).

City of Wolverhampton Council will be closed for the Easter holidays on Friday 2 April 2021 and will reopen on Tuesday 6 April 2021.