

Our ref: HOUSEHOLD SF  
Your ref: FSM VOUCHERS  
Date: 27.04.2023  
Email: [SarahGreaves@southend.gov.uk](mailto:SarahGreaves@southend.gov.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Important information, please read carefully. The way in which Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers are distributed during non-term time is changing.**

The Household Support Fund is a government grant administered by Local Authorities for supporting households affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and the rising cost of living. It is this fund that has provided eligible children and young people with Free School Meal vouchers during non-term time holiday periods. However, this is a temporary grant and the arrangements for 2023/24 will be the final round of funding.

Children and young people who are eligible for FSM's will no longer receive vouchers during non-term time. This includes the week of May half term 2023. No vouchers will be issued to families during this time.

Instead, the arrangements for the Household Support Fund in 2023/24 is as follows:

- Children and young people eligible for FSM will be supported with 2 one off payments. The payments will continue to be made using FSM vouchers distributed through WONDE, the same way vouchers have been issued in all previous rounds.

These payments will be made on:

- 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Further information will be issued by schools to families eligible for FSM in preparation for the June 2023 voucher distribution, including the value of the vouchers children and young people can expect to receive.

Yours sincerely

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