

Date: 19 May 2026



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

Peterborough City Council
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

School holiday voucher scheme has ended – families urged to check broader funding entitlements

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to make you aware that the school holiday food voucher scheme for eligible children, funded through the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF), has ended.

The HSF was introduced as a short-term measure to help households with essential costs such as food and energy, as an initial response to the cost-of-living crisis.

In March, this fund ended and the Government launched its new Crisis Resilience Fund to replace the HSF, which instead looks to target support where it is most needed and support households and families to become financially stable in the longer term. Support will be available for those in need via the new fund and the council will announce details of this shortly.

At the same time, there were two major national changes which increased ongoing support for many households with dependent children. From April 2026, the Government lifted the two-child benefit cap in Universal Credit and tax credits. This means that families can once again receive child-related payments for all their dependent children, rather than being limited to support for their first two children. [Find out more about the changes to child benefit.](#)

Initial national estimates indicate that affected families could, on average, be better off by several thousand pounds a year in additional benefit support, depending on their circumstances. This will increase the income for many households, helping with everyday essentials such as food, energy and housing costs.

To support residents to maximise their income, the council has also launched a new online Better Off calculator. This secure tool allows people to check what benefits and other support they may be entitled to, including the impact of the two-child cap being lifted, and to see how their income might change in different circumstances.

Alongside this, the council has created a new 'Money and benefits' information pages on its website – [Money and benefits | Peterborough City Council](#). These pages bring together clear, practical information on:

- Maximising income from benefits, childcare offers and work-related support
- Help with debt, budgeting and managing household bills
- Food support, local welfare assistance and other crisis help
- Links to trusted local and national organisations offering free, confidential advice

We will continue to work with schools, early years settings, voluntary and community organisations and other partners to identify and support families who are struggling.

I am also pleased to say that the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme which provides children with activities and meals during key school holidays, has been extended until March 2029.

Every child attending HAF receives a balanced, nutritious meal each day with a minimum of four hours of activities per session, including sports, arts, cultural activities, food education and life skills.

More information about these sessions is shared ahead of each school holiday and is available to view at [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | Peterborough City Council](#)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Phillips', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ian Phillips
Head of Communities
Peterborough City Council