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Dear Parents and Carers,

**Important Update: Holiday time - Free School Meal vouchers will stop after Easter.**

We want to tell you about some changes to support for families whose children get Free School Meals.

For the past few years, Medway Council has used the Government's Household Support Fund to give you supermarket vouchers during school holidays. This fund will end on 31 March 2026.

### **What this means for you**

- You **will still get vouchers** for the **Easter holiday**.
- After Easter, councils will **not be allowed** to give supermarket vouchers during school holidays. This is because of new Government rules under the **Crisis and Resilience Fund**.

### **Support that will still be available**

We know this change may worry some families. Please know that other help will still be available.

#### **✓ Crisis payments for families facing financial hardship**

If you are struggling with money, you can apply for help through **the Crisis and Resilience Fund**.

#### **✓ MedwayGo – more spaces and activities**

More money will be used to grow Medway's **Holiday Activities and Food programme** (MedwayGo). This offers:

- fun activities for children
- free healthy meals during the summer, Easter and winter school holidays.

### ✓ More support through Family Hubs

Extra funding will support our Family Hubs, so families can get the right help when they need it.

### Need help now or want to find out more?

- Visit [www.medway.gov.uk/HouseholdHelp](http://www.medway.gov.uk/HouseholdHelp) to see all the support available now.
- If you need help with money, fill in the form at [www.medway.gov.uk/financialwelfare](http://www.medway.gov.uk/financialwelfare)
- More information about the Crisis and Resilience Fund will be added soon at [www.Medway.gov.uk/CrisisAndResilienceFund](http://www.Medway.gov.uk/CrisisAndResilienceFund)

Yours sincerely,



**Celia Buxton**

**Assistant Director, Education and SEND**