

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire. We hope that you will be able to pass these messages on to families within your schools.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for **February 2024 Half-Term** will be open from **midday 16 January until midday on 30 January**. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing **5 February**.

Please encourage families to check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 7 February, please encourage them to email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

This Winter holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.**

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for February 2024 holiday vouchers-** they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

**Using vouchers** – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via email to [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by the end of the holiday period.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.**