Important information about changes to Free School Meal (FSM) holiday vouchers

Dear parent or carer,

We are writing to let you know about a change to the way the council provides support with food costs during school holidays. This follows a change in the rules around how government funding can be used.

The final FSM supermarket voucher will take place in the December 2026 school holidays. After that point, FSM supermarket holiday vouchers will end for the rest of this financial year, with a further decision for the Easter 2027 school holidays onward to follow.

What support will be available instead?

More details will follow in due course, but if families require immediate support, this may include:

- **Cost of Living** information and guidance on our website

https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/cost-of-living-support

- **Crisis payments** from the Crisis & Resilience Fund

https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-financial-help/crisis-payment-scheme/apply-for-a-crisis-payment

- **Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)** information for school holidays

https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/find-a-holiday-activity-in-your-area

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please contact us at free.school.meals@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol City Council