To Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education
County Hall
Sessions House
Maidstone
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Email: KentHAF@kent.gov.uk
Date: 12 December 2026

Action Required

Dear Colleagues

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Christmas 2026 school holidays

The HAF Programme will be returning for the Christmas 2026 school holidays. Therefore, we would appreciate your support in promoting the programme to eligible children and families within your school community.

You will be aware of recent changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility categories, which have created two groups – targeted and expanded FSM pupils. Government has been clear that only pupils in the targeted FSM group are entitled to wider support beyond their FSMs. Access to HAF is one of the extended benefits that apply to the targeted FSM group only. The HAF Programme offers funded holiday activities, enriching experiences and healthy meals for children in the targeted FSM group. The programme helps children stay active, build friendships, develop new skills and access nutritious food during the school holidays.

Accordingly, EVouchers will only be issued to children in the **targeted** FSM category. For schools using automated voucher distribution, please ensure your MIS clearly identifies pupils within this category. Where this is not in place, automated distribution will be disabled and vouchers will need to be issued manually to eligible pupils.

We would appreciate your continued support in promoting these opportunities to eligible families by:

- Sharing HAF information and booking details with eligible families through emails, text messaging services and newsletters.
- Promoting the programme on your school's website and social media channels.
- Displaying HAF promotional materials provided by local delivery organisations.
- Encouraging eligible families to explore the activities available in their area.

Further information about the programme is available on the Kent County Council website: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) - Kent County Council

As in previous holiday periods, bookings will be managed through the **HolidayActivities** platform and automated EVouchers will be issued to eligible families on **1st December 2026**. To help parents access and use their e-vouchers, please direct them to I'm a parent – Holiday Activities

If your school has **not** opted for automated EVouchers, please can you issue them to your eligible families on the above date, more guidance can be found at I'm a school – Holiday Activities

Some families who were previously eligible for a funded HAF place may no longer meet the eligibility criteria following changes to their FSM status. To support those affected, please consider directing them to the information below.

Further support with childcare costs - Kent County Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund - Kent County Council

Kent Family Hub - Kent County Council

Thank you for your continued support in helping children and young people access enriching holiday opportunities. If you have any questions or require additional support, please contact us at kentHAF@kent.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Interim Deputy Director -Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills