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4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **COVID WINTER GRANT – October Half Term Provision**

We are writing to let you know that children and young people with a current / protected benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) claim are being offered free access to food, funded through the City of Wolverhampton Council, during the October half-term holiday week (25 – 31 October 2021).

To access this support, your child must be attending a qualifying Wolverhampton school or Academy and have a current / protected benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) in place.

**You will need to register your interest online at**

**<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/October> between Saturday 2 and Friday 8 October 2021 inclusive**, if your child is attending a qualifying setting in Wolverhampton and:

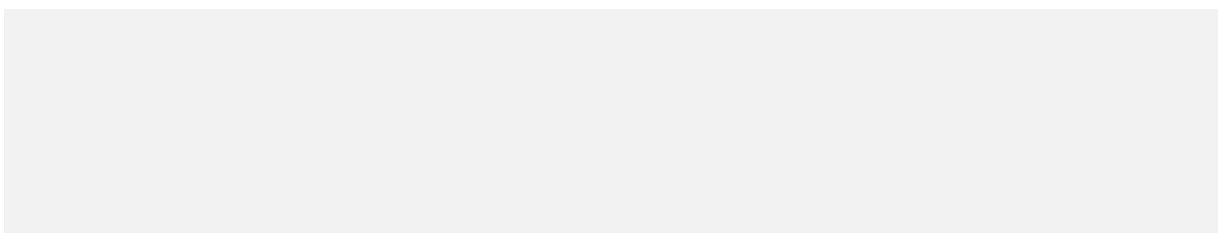
- your child has a current / protected FSM claim in place; or
- you meet the statutory eligibility criteria for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM), not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

If you don't have access to the internet, you can apply by phone (01902) 290241\* between Monday 4 and Friday 8 October 2021 inclusive.

*UIFSM are free meals provided to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of their family circumstances. These are only available to children who are attending school.*

#### **Help with your application**

- Please **only apply once**
- When your application has been successfully submitted, you will see a message on the screen **and** receive an automated acknowledgement email to the address provided on application
- If you **don't have access to the internet, or don't have an email address** please:
  - Call the Stay Safe, Be Kind Helpline on 01902 290241\*. If you call before Monday 4 October 2021, they will not be able to help you with your application



- The **deadline to apply is Friday 8 October 2021**

If you do not apply before this date, your child/ren will not be able to access this support during the October half-term holiday, even if they are eligible to receive benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) during term-time

If your application is successful

- If your application is successful, you will receive a second email by Sunday 17 October 2021
- This email will include information about how to access this support
- If you think that you should have received a second email but you haven't by Sunday 17 October 2021, please first check your 'junk/spam' email, then call 01902 290241\* or email [freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@wolverhampton.gov.uk) **between Monday 18 and Friday 22 October 2021**. You will need to provide a copy of the acknowledgement email you received when you completed your online application

If your application is **not** successful, or you need urgent help in the meantime, please speak with your child/ren's school/s in confidence, call 01902 290241\* or visit the Council's Stay Safe Be Kind website ([www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/staysafebekind)) for information about other support that might be available to you.

*\*the Stay Safe Be Kind helpline is open during office hours (Mondays to Fridays only, excluding Bank Holidays).*

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Gibbon