

3 February 2022

Via email



Communities Directorate

Sarah Tregaskis
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Dear Headteacher

Action Summary

Title: Household Support Fund grant for children eligible for benefits related FSM – February/March fuel voucher campaign and February half term food support

For the attention of: Headteacher

Action required:

1. Distribute the letter from Warwickshire County Council to inform all parents/carers of children in your school/setting who are eligible for benefits related FSM (refer to your list of eligible pupils on SAM), that in February they will be receiving financial support towards food during half term as well as a voucher towards energy costs. **Deadline: Thursday 10th February 2022.**
2. Provide help to parents/carers who require additional support to understand or access the information in the attached letter to parents/carers.
3. Promote the fuel campaign and other welfare support to all parents/carers in your school/setting.

The objective of the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund grant is to support those most in need of financial support with food, energy and water bills, as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic.

Warwickshire County Council is responsible for the administration of this grant for the county and is continuing to prioritise the funding to proactively support those families who are eligible for benefits related free school meals with the cost of food for their children over February half term as well as a voucher towards energy costs. This does not apply to children on the universal free school meal offer.

Eligible families in Warwickshire will be provided with:

Fuel Voucher Campaign (14th February to 10th March 2022)

- a PayPoint cash voucher for £60 for their household to be used towards energy including pre-payment meters, direct debit or on receipt of a bill.

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- This support will be sent out automatically between the 11th February and the 21st February 2022 to all parents /carers of eligible children, in the form of an SMS text link or email voucher from PayPoint.
- The fuel support will be sent as an SMS CashOut text message from **PayPoint Services** or an email from no-reply@paypointsvp.com, which will have a link to the cash voucher. The electronic cash voucher will feature a barcode that can be presented and cashed at their local PayPoint retailer. To find their local PayPoint retailer parents/carers can go to <https://consumer.paypoint.com/>.
- If parents have not received an SMS text or email voucher link for their household by Wednesday 23rd February 2022, parents can call the Welfare Scheme between 10am and 2pm from 23rd February until 10th March 2022 and will still receive the full voucher value.
- We have made parents aware that the Welfare team receive an exceptionally high volume of calls at this time, so may wish to consider calling after the 28th February when the phone lines may be less busy. Parents will be not financially disadvantage by doing so provided they call before the 10th March.

February Half Term (21st to 27th February 2022)

- a Huggg supermarket voucher for food support equivalent to £3 per day, £21 in total for the 7 day period covering the February half term holiday period inclusive of the weekend (21st to 27th February 2022).
- This support will be sent out automatically from the 14th February onwards to all parents /carers of eligible children, in the form of an SMS text link or email voucher from Huggg.
- If parents have **not** received an SMS text or email voucher link for their child **by Wednesday 23rd February 2022**, parents can call the Welfare Scheme between 10am and 2pm from 23rd February until 10th March 2022 and will still receive the full voucher value.
- As previously, families can use the **Huggg** link to choose a food voucher from a supermarket of their choice at their most convenient location. The supermarkets parents can choose from are Morrisons, Aldi, Asda, Iceland, Sainsbury's, Tesco or Waitrose. If families cannot use the supermarket voucher because a supermarket from the options listed is not easily accessible or an online delivery is not possible, the Local Welfare Scheme will support these families to ensure they still receive food support.

Where the parent/carer does not have a mobile phone number, we will use their email address to send the links or post the vouchers to their home address.

Frequently asked questions on both Huggg and PayPoint vouchers are available online at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

What we need from schools:

1. Letter to parents/carers (benefits related FSM)

Please forward the attached letter to all parents/carers of children who are eligible for benefits related FSM. Please remember this does not include those eligible for the universal free school meal offer.

All letters must be sent out by **Thursday 10th February** to ensure the parents/carers are aware of the support being provided.

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2. Promotion of countywide fuel campaign and other welfare support

As part of the Household Support Fund grant, the Local Welfare Scheme are also running a countywide fuel campaign from 14th February to 10th March 2022. The Scheme will be offering a one-off payment to Warwickshire residents finding it difficult to pay for fuel bills. Applications for the payment, in the form of a voucher, must be made by the 10th March 2022.

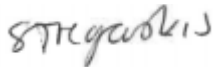
We have attached leaflets on the fuel campaign and other financial hardship support that is available that can be shared with **all** parents/carers.

If you have any families that need support and are not eligible for FSM, please refer them to the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme on 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

Please do remind families that they can make an application for benefits related FSM at any time, if they have a change to their circumstances
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-schoolmeals>

Thank you for your support in ensuring all eligible families receive the support that is being made available through the Household Support Fund and the Local Welfare Scheme.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Tregaskis
Service Manager –
Education Delivery Services



Sarah Stear
Interim Assistant Director –
Business & Customer Services

Enclosed:

1. Letter to parents/carers
2. Warwickshire hardship support leaflet
3. Fuel voucher campaign leaflet – “Get help with fuel costs”

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